MAKEN NO DAYDREAMER
魔拳のデイドリーマー
2
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Maken no Daydreamer

Volume 2 - The Bespectacled Girl and the Labyrinth of Naga

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Table of Contents

Maken no Daydreamer
Chapter 7 – Labyrinth | Beautiful Girl | Unexpected Accident
Chapter 8 – Sword Fight and Distrust and Enhancement Magic
Chapter 9 – Adventurer Registration
Chapter 10 – First Dungeon
Chapter 11 – Raw Materials and Inn and Prospects and Secret Meeting
Chapter 12 – Abnormal Situation
Chapter 13 – Secret of Wall Paintings
Chapter 14 – The Real Power
Chapter 15 – Her Troubles Part 1
Chapter 16 – Determination and Ridicule and Tears
Chapter 17 – The Martial Exhibition Meet at Dusk
Chapter 18 – The Smiling Fox and Male Gender Part 1
Chapter 19 – The Most Critical Point of Today
Chapter 20『Daydreamer』
Chapter 21 – Rain Falls Ground Hardens and Much More
Chapter 22 – The True Identity of Sly Fox

Chapter 7 – Labyrinth | Beautiful Girl | Unexpected Accident

"—What the hell is this?" Yes, for some reason I said it Tohoku dialect, but I am really Minato.
And it's not like I'm a native from north-west Japan.

By the time I jumped on the magic circle in-house …… I was completely fine.
I really though I will be sent out of forest to some plains, but I was wrong.
That's because the place I see in before, looks like a damn dungeon.

There is wall of stone and floor too along with torches like things on the walls. Though there are no windows present here. For what reason did mom link the magic circle to this damn place?
By the way, that magic circle can be used one-way only, so no way to return back. It's not like I want to go back so it's fine with me.
But I even in my wildest dreams would think of having a dungeon in front of me after flying.
Anyway, it would be boring or rather damn silently boring if I don't do a thing, so I decided to look around for understanding my situation.
I came here while traversing through another dimension but there is no damage or anything with the equipment. All things I have from tools to provisions are perfectly fine. The money mom left for me is also fine. Thank God.
Next, shadow training.
Punches, Kick, Flying Kick, Roundhouse Kick, Backhand Blow.

And with vigour tried to do a 3 turn flying kick, but gave up on it as I would collide with the ceiling otherwise.
So I checked my magic control.

Yea, I can use magic. Magic reload to hands and legs is also faster. No abnormalities.
Alright, Status Check Complete!

……So I've now run out of all things I could do.

Anyhow.
Now that I think about it, it ain't normal to think about what to do inside an unknown dungeon.

Places like these, have some sort of purpose in them.
I think it's not inefficient to come here by default and think about 'What should I do?'.
In that case, there is only 1 thing I need to do now.

If I want to do something else, and I want more information, and so it will be good to get out of here, right?
Well then, now my next mission is to get out of this labyrinth like dungeon.

But,

After coming here, I met with a simple and serious problem and that stood in my way.
"How……will I get out of here?"
I don't know what place this is and what sort of dungeon this is.
Before that, if this is dungeon is it filled with floors?

And it doesn't has any windows, So I don't know if I'm above ground or underground, and so I don't fucking know if I should go down or up.
This maybe more dangerous than being send to an unknown plains.
Hey mom, you there.

Ain't this hurdle too high for you son who was departing for a journey.

Well, for the time being, let's walk. I don't know any route from the start, so there is no chance for me to get lost or so.
Yea, I'm serious.

☆☆☆

(POV changed to???)
"Yo-you deceived me deviant! Coward!"
"What are you saying about? I am escorting a girl adventurer like you who has got no damn fighting power. This is much service is natural right?"

"D-Don't joke around! I didn't had any intention like tha……No! Don't touch me!"
Ku, it was a failure!
No matter how much fast I needed to come here, I shouldn't have taken a man like this with me!

I would've understood it before, if I was calm.
It all because of the rumours of treasure lying in this dungeon which I heard from fellow adventurers and guild.
The rumour is about the 'treasure rooms' which were hidden before the strong earthquake from some days ago broke down the walls hiding them. In reality, many have already been discovered.
I had some reasons for getting money so I urgently came here prepared, before anyone other discover them.
And even I felt uneasy doing so alone, so searched for a similar adventurer who seemed free, but looks like I failed in selecting the right person.
Even though I didn't had time to search thoroughly, but why this guy……!
He didn't show his true colours right after entering the dungeon. He can't use magic, but can fight and has repelled many demons by now.
Just when thought, that this dungeon's level is not so high and will work out one way or other but it came to this.
After moving a little more in dungeon and just the moment we came to a place with low monsters, this guy shows his true colours.
"I was thinking today to go to brothel in the night , but you're a great thing I found."
"Leave me you Pervert! To do it here, you sane!?"
"It's arousing those strong willed eyes and face. I wonder what face you'll make a little later."
I tried to push him aside, but he's a man and to top it off he's a robust well-trained adventurer. Even I am trained well, but the difference in power is obvious.
In short, this man (don't fucking care about his name!) put his hands on my clothes.
My clothes are made for moving easily, and due to that it has more exposure of skin than normal clothes. If one things of taking them off they can do so easily.
A high-grade one will be different, but this was the best I could get based on my strength and funds.
While I was looking in amazement, he tore off out garments and armour too now the only that is covering my upper body is under garments.
The cold air inside the cave comes in contact with my skin directly. Without paying attention to that, the lustful eyes of the man in front of me moves towards the lower part of my body which is still covered with

armour.
I found out cold sweat running down my cheeks.
My stiff face which was full of confidence soon distorted with fear. That is due to the smile that spread on the man's face and also due to the bad feeling.
"Sto-Stop it! He-Help me!"
"Hehehe, no one is gonna save you!"
I was also thinking the same within my mind.
This place is at the corner of the path in which even monsters rarely ever come. There's no way a person who can save me will pass through……

……But, at that moment

"Now obediently Guboahh!!!"

—-Smack

"!?"

Suddenly the man sitting on top of me flies horizontally and crashes into the wall. It's as if someone punched him flying away.
Eh, What? What happened just now!?

And then,

From my front, came an hysteric sort of voice.

"Noo!? It's bad it hit someone!?"

……Who is that man?

☆☆☆

(POV changed to Minato)
It's bad! I made a mistake!
In the beginning I was exploring the dungeon (?) by walking, but from the time I thought to try some skills, demons possessed me, ah damn it!
It's a hassle to roam slowly, so I used magic to accelerate.

I gained a lot of pace and searched here and there while running, but know what, it's kinda fun if you do it.
And this dungeon is not so complicated and is wide and spacious so it wasn't a problem to run.
And then, that, Er, got elated and ran in full speed.

The basics of traffic rule. Stop at the corners for a moment and after confirming there's no problem then move forward. If you don't, in distant future it might turn into something bad.
Well, it's already too late for that.
I get even more elated and accelerate a bit more than my full speed. I sped up to up to a vehicle and then when I thought 'ah, crap, a corner's coming, need to decelerate'……

But, after decelerating a bit, I tried to perform a daredevil's stunt of making a sharp turn at good speed around corner and this is what happened
—-Smack!
Ah, not so good sound

“Noo!? It’s bad it hit someone!?”
And the next moment, I sent someone who was at the blind spot of the corner grandly flying away.
And I have enhanced my body with magic. So I sent him flying with a not so powerful power for me but dangerously powerful power for the other party.
And when I came to my senses a bit later I found that someone (It was shaved beard old man) sunk into the wall just like what I’ve seen in manga only. aaa, what a great pose it is! But I can’t laugh!
No you’re wrong! I never had the intention to kill him!

It’s just that while turning around the corner came a not so nice handsome old man and we clashed. It’s not at all an intentional murder! And this might be a character elimination, so sorry for that. Calm down. Who am I even trying to explain this to.
and, just when I thought that.

“E-Erm……Excuse me?”
came a voice. What the hell, there was a witness too!?
I timidly turn back, and there was a single girl.
Her hair is of green colour and, is almost shoulder length long. Somewhere between long than semi-long hair and short than long hair. They are tied near the ends so as to not split easily.
Her face, has slightly sharp eyes, is HELLA pretty. Her face is full of vigor and what’s more she is wearing glasses.
She is fair-skinned and her body is slender, but her hips, breasts, and hands and legs are toned better as if she has trained her body a lot……
……Nh? Breasts?
I then noticed her crouching on the floor half-naked.
The down part is not like that, but the above part is only the under garments left, that if just dislocated a bit you can see a lot of things.

And besides her, the clothes and armour are lying. It can be understood that she took them off just now.
Now then, what sort of situation is this?

Fumu……
This is a dark place……
Nice and handsome (?) middle-aged man……
Half-naked beautiful girl……

……’Kay, I got it to somewhat extent.

“Erm, I’m sorry for intruding……”
“Wait there!”

I tried to leave from there as if I saw nothing at all, but suddenly that beautiful girl stopped me. The girl stands up from her posture and bends forward while holding the nape of her neck.
Wait, what!? What the hell is she doing, when I’m showing a good adult’s cooperation and trying to leave them alone!?
“I know you have a lot to say, but you’re getting a wrong idea here!”
“No, no-no no no, I didn’t get anything wrong. I thought that the age difference was a lot but that is all up to the person’s own preference. I have nothing to say at all? But yes, it’s weird to do something like that in places like this……”
“That’s all the thing you’re getting the misunderstanding about! I was attacked! By this man!”
“Yes Assaulted……what?”
Ah, so that’s how it was?

So they didn't have that sort of relationship, or some sort of agreement?
"So don't get wrong problem! I don't know who you are or where you from! But thanks to you I was saved! Thank You!"
I think the way you're giving me your gratitude is completely abnormal.
Well, if what she is saying is truth, she might be emotionally unstable, I do a nod to her…… by holding hands in front of hips, this is a type of very intimidating 'thank you'. To be frank I never got used to saying 'thank you' or 'sorry' even in the previous life.
That girl looks toward the man who has sunk into the wall about 3 cm (He is twitching a bit so he is not dead!) with hateful gaze and returns her line of sight to me.
"So are you an adventurer?"
"Eh? Um, that, how should I say it……"
The girl looks at me with disgusted eyes.

Though she has thanked me, but she is still staying on her guard.
I see, this might be a good decision. She has just gone through a serious situation so it's natural for her to be vigilant.
But, what should explain to her?
I am not an adventurer as of yet and was thinking to learn what an 'adventurer' is, so ain't got much information on them.
I came here by flying with the help of a magic circle, no, well it's the truth but I doubt she will believe it.
It's hard to make a lie so soon, and even if I say the truth it's highly likely to be regarded as a lie, no words are coming to my mind to make the girl full of vigilance (Is this girl even an 'adventurer'?) nod.
Then, she herself speaks up
"……Is it something you can't say?"
"Not something I can say, or rather, I don't have anything to say"
"You a nomad or something? You got lost in this dungeon? …… well it's alright."

The girl quickly wears the clothes and armour while talking. And then checks the position of the dagger? like think hanging on her waist.
"I want to know something? What are you gonna do from now on?"
"What? Well, it's getting out of here."
"I see, then let's go together"
"Eh, isn't that alright?"
Now this is unexpected development! Maybe if I stick with this girl, I'll be able to get out of this dungeon?
She still hasn't taken down her guard, but speaks in a somewhat calm tone.
"Well, though this is the 1st floor, but it's disheartening to roam around alone. I would love to go with someone else but this pervert is out of question."
"Is that so? Then Great~, I didn't know which way should I go"
"Wha!? Wai, You, didn't even check the route you came from!?"
She is saying as if saying 'unbelievable'.
"Even if you're not an adventurer, but making a map when searching through the dungeon is the basic of basics!? If you don't do it, then you can't get out! Even if the level is low……"
To hell with making a map, I just came here by warping and even before I told her this off, she entered a lecturing mode.
"God, This is the first time I saw someone as optimistic as you? If you didn't meet me, how would you have gone back home?"
If you can do it then do that to mom. No actually I will also help in it.

I seriously after so many years, couldn't get what the hell is she thinking.
Well anyway, I stick with her now. No, I was really sad to roam lonely. I was already thinking about living

here till old age without getting out. I am lucky to stick with a person who actually knows the way out here.
After completing her preparations, the girl said ‘come on let’s go’ and I in a panic followed her.
Hey, what? You gonna leave that old man?
“It’s alright. I don’t have any obligation to save him. And his hand is standing up, so he will not die……And I don’t care even if he died (deadly stare)”
Whoa, you say a lot
Well, what was about to occur to her, then her actions are normal.
“What’s your name? You didn’t tell me yet?”
Nh? Ah, Self-Intro is still not done. Due to all this rapid development I completely forgot about it.

Or rather, I’m already at my limit to call her ‘this girl’.
“My name is Minato. Minato Quadrille”
“Hmm……Unusual name it is. I’m Elk. Elk Caucus. Nice to meet you. ”

This was the meeting between me and the bespectacled girl……Elk.

Chapter 8 – Sword Fight and Distrust and Enhancement Magic

“Hmm, so that’s why you are at this place.”

“Ah, well yeah”

Elk says ‘You did well surviving’ after hearing my false story.

After accompanying with her, I was able to leave the dungeon-like labyrinth (according to her, the name is ‘Labyrinth of Naga’.)

And when I told her ‘Ah I don’t know any cities or places like that near here’, she showed me an amazed expressions as if she had given up on me. I’m really sorry for that.

But, too bad, thanks to the hobbies I had in my previous life, I now like the disgusted eyes looking at me. They’re my favorite.

After watching at me with those eyes for some time, she said ‘It really can’t be helped’ and guided me to the nearest city. Phew, safe!.

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Along the way I had something that I wanted to confirm so I stopped Elk who was guiding me to the city.

What it is? It’s the very simple thing known as : Knowing the ‘currency values’.

When I was leaving the house, I stole the money (They are coins) from the vault inside mom’s room. In the letter too it was written ‘You can take as much money as you want’ somewhere, there shouldn’t be any problem.

But, I still don’t know its value.

I had already learned the information about this world from the books inside mom’s study. She had accumulated those books from a lot of eras (She lives long after all) and so I couldn’t get a damn clue about the currency value of the current era.

Maybe here too is the difference between currency like that in japan, like the 1 Yen from pre-war times is of 1000 times more value than that of 1 Yen of the current time.

……And it is obvious that mom has lived a lot of time and must’ve seen currency values changing and……no, let’s not think so much about it.

So, when I took out all the coins and asked Elk ‘Will this much be alright for surviving in a city’, she eyes open wide.

“Eh, What? What happened? “

"'What happened' is my line! Why the hell are you showing a large amount of money as if natural!? And that so, in the middle of path!!"

Large amount? Is she talking about this bag full of silver coins?

I don't the rate, but it maybe large amount, given the precious metal and a bag full of it.

After hearing the explanation which was more like an investigation enquiry.

It seems to be that 1 silver coin is around 10,000 Japanese Yen. What the Fuck. And 1 gold coin is of 100 silver coins and 1 silver coin is of 100 copper coins.

So in short, after adding up the 10 gold coins and 100 silver coins inside my bag, it's value is above 10 Million Yen!? Awesome!!

This ain't the sum of amount worthy of 'it's alright' or 'it's not less'!? Mom why the hell did you leave this tremendous amount of money!? This much money is not even the half of the what was in the vault.

No, well, she did get her reward from the previous request. Her fortune is around that of the national budget. So this much money is of no concern at all to her.

So, the amount of in this bag is only mere several hundred thousands of yen. It's like seeing many brown envelopes full of banknotes in front of you. It's natural for Elk to be startled. Yes

The path starting from the dungeon has fewer people passing but it's not zero. So it won't be good if others saw it.

And then,

And then I realize that Elk, who is I think frozen, is thinking about something.

That is okay, but sorry. But if I don't move you, I won't be able to reach the city.

And, looking at her closely, she looks pretty dangerous.

"Eh!? Ah, Wh-What Minato? Ah, Sorry, I was thinking something"

When I poke her shoulders, she gives an overreaction of being startled. Is her heart alright. I'm sorry for that.

"Sorry, Sorry, City, right? Follow me"

And then, Elk starts walking on the path at a fast pace.

……Well, she might have her own reasons, and it's rude to interfere in other's problems. So I decided to follow her silently.

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After walking for a while, she temporarily left to some place leaving me behind saying 'I'm going to pluck

some flowers'.

Now a little knowledge.

'I'm going to luck some flowers' is phrase primarily used by female mountaineers and which means 'Nature is calling for me'.

By the way, for men it is 'I'm going to pluck some green peas'. Awfully lame!

……It was after dozens of seconds later, that I realized the strange incident occurring.

7 people, no 8 people, eh. 1 is standing too far away.

I am already surrounded by them. They had dispersed their presence and are already scattered……were they thinking of ambush from before?

But, though they are careful, it doesn't appear that they have any intention to keep on hiding and wait for the right moment. They surround me and after coming a little closer to me, they show their faces.

There appearance is, well in one word 'Bandits'. They mostly look the same as the ones during the test given by mom. Their face also looks evil.

So they capture the weak looking adventurers coming and going from/to the 'Labyrinth of Naga', eh?

Well, not like I give a shit.

"Ah, you don't have say anything? I know what you are going to say already"

"Hey, Lil bro, ain't ya too much calm in this situation"

"Do you know the position you're in, huuh?"

I do know? To some extent, though

And perhaps they are gonna say any one of these: 'Take out your money' 'Leave everything you have' or 'Come with us'.

"Even so, it's more than what I expected?"

"Yeah, surely. His appearance is good and black hair is rare……Holy God, his eyes are also black. This lad can be sold at high price."

"He is also equipped with good equipment. Is he from some noble family?"

Aw Geez, so it was the third phrase.

If Elk returns at this time, she might also be targeted by them. It's good to finish the job before she comes back.

The moment I thought that, I felt a prickling sensation near the nape of my neck.

Immediately after, something fell near my foot, thinking what it might be, I crouch and pick it up just to find a cone shaped……dart.

After realizing that I have got hit by this dart, one of the bandits approaches me nonchalantly while showing a 'Gehehe' vulgar smile.

I don't know what's the reason for that, but it's convenient for me.

"1 person at a time"

"Huh? What the fuck you say–GuBooohh!?"

Just as I stand up, I do a backhand chop on the person approaching me and he goes down.

And there was one more person behind him. So I kicked in his stomach.

He flies to the other side of the brushwood and didn't come back. Yeah, he is definitely unconscious.

Seeing that, the countenance of the six bandits surrounding me changes.

They are spouting some crap like, 'Why ain't it working!?' and 'It should paralyze him!?'. Anyhow, I can understand that they are in a state of panic.

Well, I know for what reason it is.

Lick

I lick the dart which was fired at me but didn't stick in my skin.

Ah, as expected. The dart was covered with a lot of……paralysis poison.

But, too bad.

Even if this dart did stick in my skin the poison of this level won't work on me.

And, one person comes near me thinking that now I have licked the poison, it should work. I punch him in the gut and he faints.

By this time, finally the thieves appear to be in a state of severe panic.

It's too late for them, though.

Just like I said before, I will deal with you guys before Elk returns.

……But she won't feel good upon seeing corpses lying after she comes back. Let's keep them alive to run away.

"……Just 5 seconds, huh"

It will be troublesome, but I would've let them go if they tried to run away. And as to not accept my grateful offer 5 bandits attack me.

In the end, just like I declared, finished them all in 5 seconds.

I punch the one coming at me from the front like an idiot. 1 person down.

One person attacks at me from behind while swinging his sword. Before he comes near me I kick him in the

crotch. 2 people down.

And swing the kick towards the other person coming at me from the side. 3 people down.

1 of the last 2 people, aims at the bottom of my neck with the dart. Does he have no thinking capability.

Ah, this is a good time to show off. So I catch the dart and throw it at him.

It hits in the middle of his forehead. 4 people down.

Really, a dart won't stick in my skin and even if it sticks a poison of this level won't work on me even if they stick it 1000 times.

There is a reason for this,

The story is related to the origin of my different type of body enhancement magic.

I developed it during the training period with the cooperation of mom. And it's cool and awesome name is 'Elemental Blood'

Mom was shocked beyond limits and screamed 'Just what the hell are you trying to make!!' at that time. This can be can said as one of the secret magic from my collection of original magic.

Normal enhancement magic are not complex as it's only filling up your body parts with magic to increase physical strength or increasing reaction time.

If one has talent in magic, they can use it very soon and easily. A popular type of magic.

But this magic, just enhances physical strength and endurance strength. It cannot change the nature or hardness of body.

In simple words, enhancement magic will reduce the damage from blunt or shock attacks but it won't protect the body at all if cut by blade or swords.

Naturally, if one trains his body and magic to the utmost limit, it is possible to gain a body that can bear the damage by blade or swords, but skin is skin and it will remain soft.

For the same reason, even if magic increases the physical strength, it can't repel poison or acid like things.

If one tries to stop them with 'Enhancement Magic', they have to control the flow of magic in their body with tremendous concentration for changing the function of their body.

In the history of this world. Many renowned magicians and researchers have tried to research about this magic and failed. And it is said, that the accurate control on magic is impossible by the people of this world.

But I have succeeded in performing it, with the help of the knowledge of human structure from my previous life.

In the first place, the reason the humans can't control the magic accurately in all the parts of body is because they don't know the structure or how human body works.

Even if there are people who can enhance like 'Let's enhance the arm' but there is no human who can enhance like 'Let's enhance each and every hair that is growing on my arms.'

But even if they don't know the structure of human body, it's possible for them to control the magic flow and let it flow equally in the insides of their bodies.

When we use the ……'blood vessels' spread throughout our body. The method I used.

We humans let the nourishment flow throughout our body via blood flowing inside the vessels. Due to that, every hair and every cell is getting nourishment.

So I thought 'Then it's better to use magic like that'.

I mixed the magic in very small particles (called them as 'Demon Particles' during research) inside my blood and am letting magic flow along with blood inside my body.

Those 'Magic Particles' are flowing through my entire body and are absorbed by each and every cell just like nourishment. And now all cells are filled with magic.

Thanks to that, my body which has got on the level of controlling magic to the extreme, won't just end up with the increase in power.

My vision, hearing and smelling and other senses that are difficult to enhance have enhanced.

And body has gotten solid at cellular levels, so a normal knife can't be stabbed in me.

Most of the poisons and acids also won't work on me. The me right now can drink 100 times more poison than that of a normal person and still remain fine. Furthermore, it won't even feel ticklish if I bath with sulfuric acid too.

Of course, if the poison dosage or attack power is above the level I can bear, it will hurt like hell, but the attacks and poison of these bandits,

SFX: Gakin

"What!?"

Won't give me a single scratch even if I catch them with my hands (of course, bare hands).

"M-Monste–GubOhh!!!?"

"Who is the monster,huh. You're pretty rude, ain't ya!?"

I catch the saber and push it towards the forehead of last person with force.

Blood starts flowing from his forehead due to the strong blow from the back of saber. He opens and closes his mouths as if to say something and falls down.

'Kay, 5 seconds over. I completed it before Elk came back……at that moment,

"M-Minato!? Wh-What is……"

"Ah, welcome back Elk, you were pretty fast?"

Elk looks at me from the shade of a tree.

“Eh, um, is this……”

“Ah, It’s fine completely fine. I’ve already finished it. Well, they’re alive.”

I have already learned how to hold myself back.

After that ‘test’, we had to go far away from home many times (Always flying in air while being held by mom.) and so I have accumulated experiences by doing bandit extermination of those areas.

It was thought that maybe I don’t want to kill another human because I didn’t kill even one person.

Well, I won’t refute to that. It’s all due to the idea ingrained in me from my previous life that if they are going to be judged by law then there is no reason to kill them.

And it also helped me to understand how to hold myself back when fighting.

Anyhow, I had already completed the fights at a level in which I can kill the opponent by that time.

And during those fights to not kill other person, I also tried to properly use my enhanced body properly. I fought against those whose names are on the wanted list and are wanted alive. (The cases of wanting a person dead or alive are more though)

Let it be fist or kick, it’s easy for me to defeat the opponent without killing them now.

When I look at Elk, she is looking down of the bandits with an expression full of fear and anxiety.

……I know it’s a bit late, but this looks more bad than corpses lying down.

In addition, her reactions are just too much, well it’s natural after all, the girl went through a bad experience just a while ago.

And I decided to wait for Elk to calm down and restart our journey to city.

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And just before reaching the city ‘Volka’ in which Elk lives,

“By the way, what are you planning to do from now on.”

“Eh, what do you mean?”

“From what I heard before, you don’t seem like an adventurer. So are you going to register at guild or search for some other job……”

Whoa Guild! The Adventurers Headquarters! I was waiting for it!

This is that you know? The manager of the organisation which controls adventurers and offers them quests, right!? This world is AWESOME!!

“Nh? So if I don’t register I won’t become an ‘adventurer’?”

“It’s not like that, but it’s convenient if you do register. It also as an identity card. and will help in getting discounts at shops. Will you register?”

“Eh, Is that Alright! Yay!”

Whoa, Thank you! I have no knowledge about the geography here and neither any common sense, she did save me!

Even I who is delighted like I child know that Elk sighed a lot of times today.

–Right after sighing

“……If it’s like this then it will be very efficient……”

Words like that reach my ears.

……Well, it’s alright for now.

Chapter 9 – Adventurer Registration

A few minutes after I had kicked the asses of bandits, I arrived at the nearest city 'Volka' thanks to Elk guiding me.

In one sentence: It has the cliche market scene that is mostly shown in other novels and manga.

There is no signs of any machinery. All the shops, stalls and buildings that give the feeling of a fantasy world are standing on either sides of the road. Yeah, wonderful feeling.

While I was being deeply moved thinking 'This really is like a game world……'. My stomach started grumbling, after all I walked quite a distance from inside the labyrinth to here and ended up eating lunch together with Elk.

I am being treated by Elk as thanks for saving her. We bought kebabs that are being sold by the stalls and are walking while eating them.

I arrived at the place i was being guided to.

"Hmm, so this is the Guild……"

"That's right. Hey, don't stand there you'll get in others way. Hurry up and come"

"Ah, yeah, understood"

I replied to Elks words and start following behind her.

Still, this is the Guild, eh……

"It's huge. It surpassed my expectations"

"Well, this is the 'headquarters' for the guilds all over the world. In the first place, this city is larger compared to other cities, so it may be natural."

In front us is the really huge 3-storey building giving the feeling of a government office. The plot area is not like that of a government office but it is on the level of a national congress building.

So this is the headquarter of the Guilds? Is this by any chance a great city?

But I always had the image of the guild being a small building packed with people (arbitrary imagination) and so it's a little unexpected for me. [Askurai: like all guild are so big ehh]

It's more like a building made of wood and giving the feeling of a bar, in the centre of it is a table near which some dangerous looking people are drinking alcohol while laughing like "Gahahahaha" and are searching for some beauties in their surroundings.

"……Then won't be a bar rather than calling it a guild. And it's building is really bad."

"Eh!? You can read my mind!?"

"You started murmuring while thinking about it."

Elk completely gives up on me while sighing.

But well, I just can't change this feeling of 'It's normal' that is coming from it. It's completely different from what I have seen in games or read in manga or LN. It seems like a real municipal office or so. [ETN: The normal he is feeling according to what he will feel normal in his own world. It's not the normal with the meaning of lame.]

Ah but there are a lot raw materials of demons scattered here and there? so it gives the feeling of another world. Did someone bring it as some sort of quest?

Well, there's nothing to worry about it, let's go to the counter already.

And look what, an onee-san with a business smile welcomed me wearing the uniform of the receptionist that the ones in municipal offices wear.

She has light brown semi-short hair and her age doesn't seem much different from that of mine or Elk.

The receptionist lady bows her head.

"Welcome to the Adventurer Guild. On what business might you have come here today?"

"Ah, Yes. Erm……I want to register as an adventurer."

"A new registration, right? Would you also want to register?"

"No, I have already registered so only he needs to register. I am only accompanying him."

"Understood mam. So then, please fill out this document."

While saying that she hands me a single paper, the so called document paper. It's like the registration form.

Hmm, the entry content are……

Name : Minato Quadrille

Age : 16

Race : Human……maybe. I want to think I'm human.

I fill out the form with necessary points.

"Ah, excuse me, I have not registered at any inn. How should fill the field of emergency contact address?"

"In that case you can report it back at a later time when you have taken a room at the inn. We won't be able to contact you by then, so it will be better if you hurry and finish it."

"I see. Then this 'remarks' is?"

"That is filled about the techniques an individual uses……for example, using magic, using familiars et cetera. It is mandatory."

Just like that, I keep on filling the blanks.

Let's leave the techniques at 'Use Magic, Magical skills at beginner level.'

I do have a lot of different magical skills if you ask about them. But it's a hassle to explain.

"HmHmm, You can use Magic?"

"Around the level so it can create hindrances."

Elk speaks as such while seeing my entries.

She is looking with a somewhat investigative stare. Well, it's not much of a problem so I keep on ignoring it. Even if she looks, I haven't written any personal information at all.

I do have a lot of magic inside me, but the things I have and can use that are on human level are "Sympathy Power" and beginner ~ intermediate level magic like making a small flame for illuminating a dark space.

But still, I have confidence in fighting using the 'Enhancement Magic'. Furthermore, it is more simple than using the magic or crap like that.

I keep on writing in the form like that.

Just short information like , 'I'm a beginner' or 'excel at close-combats' but in details.

Why am I writing in details? According to the lady, it is needed for referencing when there are quests in which the teams or parties are needed to be formed.

Ah, it like that, 'recruiting magicians' or 'recruiting vanguards'.

I submit 2 silver coins, which seems to be the registration fee after finishing the form.

The receptionist lady, looks over the form to check any places which need to be filled.

It seems like I passed, and she places a seal on the form.

And for some reason, she asks for 2 strands of my head hair. I pull them out and hand them over.

She puts one hair along with the form in a small bag. And she places the other hair……on the top of a metal card which she took out of somewhere. [Askurai: so soul/hairbounded?]

Thereupon, the hair disappears as if sucked inside the card.

And then she puts the bag with my hair and registration form in a device which looks like a sort of scanner. She then slashes the card through the small gap present in its side.

By any chance, does it read the personal information?

The card which was slashed shines brightly for some seconds. And she hands me the card,

"This is Minato-sama's Guild card……it will be used as an identity card. Please confirm it."

Whoa, I already got an Identity Card.

Name: Minato Quadrille

Age: 16

Rank: F

……Et Cetera.

And seeing my eyes (that looked like a kid having his favorite toy in his hands), Elk shows an amazed expression.

It can't be helped I'm a male after all!!

"Well then I will explain some rules of this guild."

And here comes the time for Lady's tutorial. Please teach me well.

.

.

.

I got the explanation, in simple words it was something like this.

You'll be getting additional services according to your status.

You can accept various requests……the so called 'Quest' with the help of Guild.

It is not a problem for the Guild, if adventurers choose to complete investigation work instead of taking quests.

However, if one investigates some dungeon in some savage lands, the guild offers them rewards even if it is not a quest.

It is the obligation of an adventurer to show some results from investigation or complete many quests every month. If this obligation is not fulfilled, they will be disqualified as an adventurer and their adventurer status will be revoked.

This part is somewhat puzzling so I will tell you about it later.

And now about 'Rank'.

Literally, this 'Rank' represents the grade of an adventurer. These 'Ranks' are a total of 10 grades. Starting from F at the lowest it goes up by E, D, C, B, A, AA, AAA, S and SS is the top rank. This crap is pretty detailed.

After completing the quests, the Guild evaluates the achievements or ability of the adventurer and then gives a rank. Sometimes quests for judging the rank of adventurers will be available.

Basically even Quests are divided according to ranks. It depends on my level if I can take it or not.

And lastly if by any chance one were to lose their guild card. It costs 5 silver coins for reissuing it. Really expensive!!

There are other rules too, but according to the lady it will be okay to just know these main ones.

I also got a booklet with all the rules. I will read it later.

“Well then, Minato-sama’s registration procedure will end with this……The contact address is blank, can I ask you to report it as soon as you find a lodging?”

“Ah, Yes, Understood. Erm, will it be okay to just report by speaking?”

I thought there will be something like appendix to fill or something like that.

“Yes, if you explain the situation, it will be okay with any staff member……if you would like it, you can either search for me or call out for me.”

Saying that, the lady gives me her business card.

Name is……”Rin Guiche”. I see.

Ah, this name was on the guild card too, saying ‘Person In Charge of Registration Procedure’. So this was lady’s name.

If I call out her name then I will be able to complete the procedure easily.

And like that, my Adventurer Registration is finished without any difficulties.

Yay, Finally I am also an adventurer……while puffing my chest with pride, I bow towards Rin-san and leave the guild.

Well then let’s see.

Right now, it’s afternoon……

Well, I left home, escaped from a dungeon and straight from there came to the guild (not really) and completed the registration. If you were to say it’s natural then yeah it is natural.

Now all that I have to do is searching for a lodging? And a whole day is left, so it ain’t like I have to search it right now……

Other than that……I don’t have any for now.

I even brought my own equipment, so no need to search for any.

Ack, now how will I kill time today……

For me……rather than spending time on eating while walking is a bit……

I’m an adventurer right now, now I can……

Well what I want to say is simple,

“Hey, Minato?”

“Nh? What, Elk?”

“Do you have any plans fixed after this? You look pretty free to me though……”

“No, I don’t have plans. I also have my equipment. So I’m thinking about what to do.”

“Is that so? Then……”

Elk, then speaks.

“If it’s alright with you, though it might be strange……will you come together with me to any dungeon.”

Ah, Godsend.

Plans: Confirmed.

Chapter 10 – First Dungeon

After walking 30 minutes from the city, that dungeon was there.

Ah, Dungeon is the area where an ordinary person won't come close to due to demons appearing and other dangers.

Not necessarily, only the places like caves or towers are called as dungeons. Places like deep forests or dark swamps which are isolated and are located in danger area are denominated as 'Dungeons'.

……Are the words Elk said.

Of course, the places like ravines or grasslands are also included. But the places like that which are not like a building or cave are just called 'Danger Areas'. It suits fairly well, the name that is.

Though, the place Elk decided to go this time, in other words, the place I and Elk first met is the so called "Dungeon" structure-wise.

It's name is "Labyrinth of Naga". It seems like a pretty old dungeon.

☆☆☆

It is pretty bright thanks to the torches. I and Elk keep on walking through the corridors made of rock.

Of course, it has some sort of strange intense atmosphere. After all it is a dungeon.

Well, we haven't met any demon till now.

What sort of demons might appear? I'm kinda interested.

Naturally, they will be different from the ones I have always met.

"There won't be any strong monsters coming out. It's still 1st floor……and the dungeon itself has pretty low rank."

"? Dungeon also have their own rank?"

"……You really don't know anything. Just where did you live and how were you raised?"

I was raised in a western-style house within a forest while defeating demons everyday and living with mom.

……If I say something like that, most probably an answer like "What?" will only come back, for now let's decieve her.

"Well it wasn't a good environment……"

From the view of a normal person with common sense it definitely is.

"!! I-I see……Sorry, for asking something strange……"

Elk shows an expression as if saying 'Oh my!'.

Shit, she took it the wrong way?

And then Elk, starts explaining to me politely

“It isn’t that complex. You do know that monsters and races have their own rank, right?”

“……”

“……I’ll continue then.”

Elk this time ignored my unusual silence.

Sorry, for me being unknown to things.

“The Guild decides upon the rank of dungeon based upon the the monsters that appear in that dungeon. The race of monsters and their rank and the resources or treasures one can get from the dungeon……as for historic ruins, the difficulty of traps is also taken into consideration.”

“Guild does? How does it get that information? Do they dispatch some sort of research team?”

“Yes, when new dungeons or danger areas are discovered, the guild puts out a quest for investigating them. Naturally, many voluntarily enter for gaining rewards from investigating and so the information reaches to guild.”

“Ah, I see”

Surely if they pay attention to only the credibility, the investigation will end quickly. Really clever way to do work. [Can’t make much meaningful sentence in English.]

“By the way the rank of this “Labyrinth of Naga”

“It is E”

“Hmm……really low?”

“Yeah. It pretty low-rank for it to be called a dungeon.”

From what I have heard, the ‘Rank’ given to a dungeon or danger area is made after taking into consideration of the average level or rank of monsters that appear and also whether there are any traps or not.

In other words, the monsters that appear in this ‘Labyrinth of Naga’ are mostly near Rank E.

There might be some strong monsters that that but the weaker monsters is more. Both in numbers and types of races.

“If you don’t go deep enough you won’t meet strong monsters. In the first place E and F ranked monsters are like stray monsters living in any place. But inside a labyrinth they have longer bodies and so it is difficult to run sometimes. Taking that into consideration this is E.”

I got it, I completely got it. So this only for beginners.

Well even so, due to the fact that monster’s appear here it is regarded as a danger area from the pov of an

ordinary person. I have be on guard always!

Ah, now that I think about it. I have one more thing I'm kinda concerned about.

"Hey Elk, in this labyrinth……there are wall-paintings of snakes made here and there, right?"

I point at a wall painting of a snake……it's pretty big.

There is a figure of human made besides it……on comparing both, the snake is pretty big.

"Eh? Yeah that's right. That's from where the name 'Naga' came from?"

"This snake in the painting, does it appear in here?"

"No, a guy like that has not been discovered as of yet. The people from the research group of guild think that this snake some sort of god which was worshipped by the people when this labyrinth was being made."

Hmm, So that's what it was?

The name also represents him, as if he is the boss of the main monster of this dungeon.

"If that snake was here, then this dungeon wouldn't be regarded as an beginner's dungeon……or rather what is boss, that boss word."

"Ah, Yeah, just some delusional word."

Elk's amazed glare falls on me who just showed off the eight-grade syndrome.

Oh, something came"

"Eh?"

From the insides of the corridor, the breathing sounds and footsteps of something came.

Elk hasn't noticed it yet, though. Something is coming here.

Some seconds later, Elk also noticed the sounds and figures……from inside of the dark corridor came out some demons.

"You have good ears?"

"Ah, Yeah, Thanks. What is that?"

"Can't you see that it's a goblin"

They have green and crumpled ugly faces. Greasy Hair. Height is……around 130 cm?

They are wearing clothes made of hair and holding clubs in their hands, Just like the image of a primitive man.

It doesn't have any horns. It really is the demon which the feeling 'It indeed is a Goblin!'.

The other side has also noticed us and shouts out in i don't know whether in high voice or low voice. Are they saying something like 'Who are those people'.

At the same time, Elk shuts her mouth and takes out the dagger hanging on her waist.

“Don’t lose your guard. Though it is of low level, but there is no change in the fact that this is dangerous.”

“Yeah, that is a given. By the way what is the rank of a goblin.”

“It’s E. A group of armed civilians can hunt them down or so it is said. But don’t rely on these words.”

“Why?”

“Just like goblin, the demons in humanoid forms have more or less intelligence inside their brains and can be difficult to defeat based on the weapons they use. There are also those who use the weapons of dead adventurers.”

Ah, I see. So the degree of difficulty changes due to the weapon and experience.

According to Elk,

For example, the goblins armed with clubs are mostly under the rank ‘E’.

They can reach up to rank’D’ if they according to the weapons they use and other factors too. On the other hand an unarmed goblin is of rank ‘F’.

They have short height and are not agile but they have absurd physical strength.

Furthermore, they attack in crowds, so it’s natural to fight them by forming a team.

Goblins upon seeing Elk taking out her dagger take their combat stances.

But they only increased their shouting……It’s gotten annoying.

“They’re coming……you don’t need weapons?”

“Nh? Ah, you see I……”

Suddenly 1 goblin comes running towards us and that so in a pretty gross way of running.

Elk throws the dagger at once towards the goblin.

It hits the shoulder of goblin beautifully. And he only cries *Gyaagyaaa*. Doesn’t look like they can bear pain. Well, it did hit the shoulder.

However, Elk didn’t overlook the goblin’s wailing while stopping his advance, maybe becuase of experience.

She quickly approaches the goblin while evading the club swung by goblin due to pain and irritation. And she strikes the head of goblin who is full of gaps.

The goblin’s neck is cut, blood starts flowing and the goblin dies down on the spot.

Right after Elk retreated from that place. A magnificent version of ‘Hit and Away’.

“When you don’t have confidence to defeat a goblin, it’s basic to kill it slitting its throat and running away later. Just like how I did.”

“I see……You’re pretty strong yourself.”

“Well I did train myself for that……I can do something like this. But don’t let down your guard. With this the others are angry and will come at us.”

Just like Elk says, the other 2 Goblins start shouting even more. They are obviously angry, Yes.

And now I stand in the way of those goblins.

“Elk,can I take care of the rest 2? It will serve as a little warm up”

“Will you be able to do it alone? ……and I am saying from before, don’t you need a weapon?”

“Yeah, it’s fine. I can fight like this.”

Saying that, I point my clenched fist towards Elk.

“……What?”

Elk stares at me in puzzlement. Then after some seconds she understands my intention.

“……Bare hand?”

“Bare Hand”

“wai- You serious? It’s a demon, you know?”

“Nh, its fine completely fine……It seems weak when compared to bears and crocodiles.”

“……What you saying?”

“Well, just wait and see”

Actions are much better than words.

I ignored Elk who is bewildered and is looking at me with eyes saying ‘What the heck you saying?’ and face towards the goblin. The moment I face them the two goblins start running towards me.

I take several steps forwards and take a combat position to not let any harm reach Elk.

Well then, the warm-up starts.

The moment I hear Elk’s gulping sound the clubs of the two goblins are swung downward aiming at my head and top of shoulder.

Well, I will be fine getting hit by this level of attack, but I’ve got no obligation to get hit.

I grab both clubs with my hands wearing gauntlets……

SFX : Bekya!!! X2 (CRACK)

……The moment I tried to catch it, both the clubs are smashed into pieces just as they came in contact with my gauntlets. And that so quite elegantly.

“”……Eh?””

Elk who is standing behind is startled, no, even I’m startled.

Clubs really are soft.

Well they look like normal wooden sticks, so it is natural, I guess?

And my gauntlets (I think it was Joker Metal?), recommended by mom have impressive firmness and tenacity.

And the Goblin-sans’ also seem like they are startled, sorry but I’m going to attack now.

I face towards the goblin on my right side and do an uppercut.

Just as his body floats a little in air, I raise my left and drop a high kick on its head.

Blargh, The goblin makes a really gross sound. I felt the sensation of bones breaking too. And so the goblin who has its bones broken flies and strikes the wall in front of me.

Of course, he parted from this world before hitting the wall.

The other one is looking at his broken club with a dumbfounded expression. I’m sorry but……

grab I grab his neck and raise him up.

And then, *snap*, a sound and feeling of the neck snapping reaches me.

From the sensation, it’s not to the level of bone smashing in pieces but the spinal cord is definitely gone. Most probably he died the moment he felt the sensation of being choked.

I throw his limp body and now Phew, now it’s over.

Time required to deal with two of them: 4 seconds.

When I turn back, I find Elk with her mouth opened. Was my fighting style that weird.

She is holding her dagger, was she thinking of helping me when it’s gets bad? But she didn’t had any chance to come forward.

“It startled me……I never thought you would actually go against a demon empty handed……you’re pretty strong,eh?”

“Nh? Is that so, Thank you.”

The still startled Elk said so while putting down dagger.

“……Did you by any chance defeat those slave dealers empty-handed.”

“Yea, pretty much. Ah, by the way what should we do now? Is there a need to take the raw materials?”

I have learned this from mom.

That ‘Tearing off’ any useful ‘Raw Material’ of demons like horns,fangs or fur is normal for adventurers.

The recovered ‘raw materials’ can be sold to Guild or taken to blacksmiths to convert them into equipments or items. They have a lot of uses just like in games.

And also that travelling and fighting while using them is also a great pleasure for adventurers.

“Well it depends on the other party. In the case of Goblins there is nothing we can tear off. Their bones are sturdier than that of humans but there are other demons with much better quality of bones.”

But, looks like my knowledge is not needed against Goblins.

During the subjugation quests, it’s natural for chipping off the ears of subjugation targets but this time we entered without any such request, so it’s alright to not think about it.

In that case, will this corpse be left as it is? is that alright……Nh?

“Elk”

“Eh, what?”

“They came again. This time……they’re big.”

“Eh?”

Just like before, I noticed footsteps before Elk.

This time there are……6,no, 7,eh?

When I say that, Elk shows an expression of being really terribly startled.

And she frowns while making a meek face.

“? Is that bad?”

“Yeah, 6 are a little too much. Those guys have small bodies and can’t do many maneuvers……then the only thing we should be aware of these guys is ‘Numbers’. It’s better if we run.”

“Ooh, I see, but……”(Elk)

“? What?”(Elk)

“……It seems like they’re coming from the other side too.”

“Eh!?”

The place I’m standing at, I can perfectly hear the footsteps of goblins coming from both front and rear.

From the front there are footsteps of 7 goblins.

And from the behind are 2 goblins. The ones at back are still at a pretty far distance.

Hmm, by any chance, did they gather here due to the that annoying voices from the goblins from before.

“F-From both sides!?”

I once again ignore Elk who is screaming due to this unexpected situation.

So, what should I do now.

This is a good opportunity to practice my situation assessment power.

The ones coming from back, look like haven't realized our presence yet.

On the other hand, the 7 coming from before are being vigilant towards us. Maybe they have already sensed us, as I can hear their really annoying voices.

Or rather, it's only a matter of time before the ones coming from back hear those shitty voices.

……And,

I didn't sense it at first and still can't hear perfectly, but looks like the guests from the rear are not only goblins. But they all still far.

In that case, the best-solution right now is,

Alright, I'll go with this.

"Elk, Come here"

"Eh? Wa-, Wha-,Eeeehhh!?"

I don't have much time so I postpone the explain.

First, I will run towards the front with Elk in my arms. Towards the 7 Goblins who have already sensed us.

It won't be good were captured between the two parties, and so it's the best solution to get done with these ones before the rear ones sense us……but there are many of them.

"No, wait—Hyaaaaaa!?"

I put Elk down in a safe place and attack at them alone.

From the way Elk fights……she can fight but it doesn't seem like she's good in melee attacks. And her fight against goblin too was a hit and away version.

Then, it's better I fight here, right?

From the fight before, I now know it somewhat. Against them……goblins I won't have a problem.

Let it be 7 of them or 70 of them.

Before, I didn't destroy their bodies because I was afraid if their raw materials were needed……but now that I know that it's not needed and I don't have time, I'll kill them by breaking each of their bones. Ah but I won't break their bodies.

☆☆☆

(POV changes to Elk)

Above expectations.

This is the impression I am getting while watching this man.

From what I am seeing in front of me, it can't be explained with the help of knowledge or common sense. This man is showing very impressive movements which he didn't show before.

Attacking 7 goblins is reckless unless one is going for a surprise attack or has a lot of fighting experience.

Because even though they are of low-level. The 'numbers' become an advantage for them.

I or rather every beginner adventurer will choose the place with few demons and force their way through and in the end escape.

And fighting demons without any weapon is in the first place really wrong.

However, Minato really easily broke that 'Common Sense' of mine.

The demons naturally have sturdier bones and firm muscles. That's why they have more stamina and defensive power.

It's not easy to deal fatal wounds to demons who have sturdier bodies than that of humans with some third-rate swords or spears. Though Goblins are small in height but they too are not an exception from that common sense.

One needs to aim at their vital points and put their weight to deal any damage.

But he, Minato who is swinging his fists is,

crushing the limbs of those goblins with sturdier bones with just a fist and that so very easily.

Simply put. He is dodging and hitting them. Just that work.

Minato's movements are very polished which even a noob in fighting can understand.

He dodges the clubs with very little movement and drives the fist into them.

And his attack is faster than Goblins attack and is lethal too. It won't be wrong to call it as a lethal counter-attack.

And the situation ends up with Goblins not even getting time for reacting to those fast movements.

The only attack he intentionally dodged was the first attack, he really is scary.

He is killing the goblins with just one punch. It fits the words 'Down in a Single blow'

Even now, his fists wearing black gauntlets hit a goblin.

Compared to just one second before, it's face is obviously dented, his neck is also a little extended (The bones of face are smashed and the bones of neck are dislocated) and right now is flying horizontally.

With just those simple movements, just how much power he is putting inside his fists.

And immediately after, 2 goblins attack at him from behind, but as if he already knew about them, does a

roundhouse kick without even looking at them.

The moment the clubs are aligned side by side with both goblins heads.

Minato pulverizes both the clubs and heads of the two goblins. Both of them hit at the wall of the labyrinth. Now just one more left.

His movements are very enchanting. Having said that, they are accompanied with power.

For example……they are just like the movements an actor demonstrates on stage when acting as a Saviour of Justice.

Before I knew it, all the 7 goblins are annihilated within 10 seconds……right now the last goblin is falling down having his face crushed by to Minato's kick.

And right after that,

Minato picks up 2 clubs and……throws them to the place I am standing. And the clubs fly past me.

Due to those actions, I immediately look back.

The 2 goblins Minato sensed before……stumble down after getting hit by the clubs thrown by Minato.

……How did I neglect my rear! Pathetic!

By the time I set up my dagger and was about to jump, Minato reached the place I was standing at.

In the end, I and Minato took each one……one of the two had his throat cut and the other had his skull broken to pieces.

9 armed goblins and attack from both front and rear.

In this situation any beginner will have no choice but to escape, but Minato who is sighing besides me overturned that situation.

"I-It was a little dangerous……Thank you Minato. You really saved me."

"You're welcome. But it's still too early to relax."

"Eh!?"

A little later,

A……single demon appeared from the same direction the 2 goblins appeared from.

It has eight legs and a shell covering it's body.

And also has strong-looking fangs which can easily tear off any animal into pieces.

"I did think the rustling sound was noisy so it is a spider,huh? So things like these also appear here."

Minato takes his combat stance without any signs of being confused.

……Nh? Just now what did he say? "I did think the rustling sound was noisy"?

“Elk, does it come under those you can tear of the raw materials from or not?”

“Eh? Yeah, the fangs can be taken. Not that, you could actually hear the footsteps of a ‘Spider’?”

‘Spider’ is about average even within the monsters of rank E, but no one can hear it’s footsteps.

It walks so silently that even in a place where sound reverberates it’s footsteps can’t be heard. It’s pretty dangerous as it does surprise attacks. And it also has poison.

“Well my ears and eyes are better than most of the people. And my nose too.”

“H-Hmm, I see……”

From the way he is speaking, looks like he heard it a lot before.

Now that I think about it, Minato ran towards the place with more goblins first rather than going towards the place with just 2 goblins.

It’s common sense to go towards the place with few demons unless one has projectiles.

……Well, it looks like it won’t make much difference to this guy.

Maybe he attacked the place with more goblins because he sensed the spider at that time already?

From his way of talk, it looks like though he did sense it, but he couldn’t understand that it is the ‘Spider’ demon.

So that means that he went to the place with more goblins rather than going to the place with few goblins and one unknown presence besides them.

If that is the case, just how good are your ears, Minato?

While I am feeling amazed.

“If we can get the fangs, is punching the stomach good? I don’t want it to puke after getting punched……”

Minato leapt towards the spider by kicking of the ground. He appeared right above the spider in one second and slapped it.

The spider after getting slapped at the back, starts gushing out bodily fluids from the crevices of it’s shell and falls down on the spot.

Looks like the impact reached till inside and destroyed it’s body from inside. The impact actually pierced through the shell of spider which can snap most of the weapons.

I can’t help but be astonished, seeing a skill like that.

What if he took care of goblins in one blow because he didn’t want his clothes to get dirty. Maybe he can bring out more power to even break their whole bodies into pieces.

Right now, I once again realize.

That I may have met with a really terrifying person……who can surpass my expectations.

And I,

(If he stays with me……the maybe……!)

I felt a bit of hope secretly spreading inside my heart even before entering the dungeon.

Huh? Just wait a bit.

From what I know, ‘Spider’ only appears on second floor and upwards why was it on the first floor? Did it get lost?

“Erm, Elk? How shall I take these fangs.”

“Eh? Well you can use knife and like that……Ah, don’t touch it with hands? It has poison on it.”

“Ah, I see? Well, I think it will alright……”

“Just what will be alright!?”

……Well its okay. All is well if it ends well.

Chapter 11 – Raw Materials and Inn and Prospects and Secret Meeting

Some time after the attack from Goblins (from both sides). We both decided to continue investigating the 'Labyrinth'.

After that, we met various types of monsters en route.

But they all were different from the ones in the forest or it's surrounding areas. Just what I expect from a Dungeon.

For example,

'Wolf'. It was just like it's name says.

'Lizard'. This one is a big skink lizard. It's over-all length is about 1-2 metre.

'Rabbit. This one is a wild rabbit about the size of dog. By the way it is edible.

For some reason, these all are demons which don't give the monster like feeling. If you ignore their largeness and body color then they can be found on earth too.

Doesn't something like……erm, dragon appear here?

When I asked that to Elk, I was punched and yelled at 'You got a death wish? Idiot'

No but everyone wants to see it once right? Fighting it is……you know.

Anyhow, after defeating those guys, we completed the established practice of 'Tearing Off' in this world which is the same in hunting games too.

The fangs or fur for Wolf, skin for Lizard and like that the useful parts are teared off and then sold within the city.

……or so Elk was saying.

And after we both grabbed some resources (I can call it that,right?), we both left the dungeon.

It was already Evening outside. Well, ain't that fine?

☆☆☆

After that,

When I asked Elk 'Isn't there any good inn?' she replied that the inn she is staying at is good. Her inn is the ideal inn with 'Safety', 'Cheapness' and 'Tasty Food'.

And so, it ended up me heading there.

I thought if it is fine to let one unknown man live in the same inn in which she is living. But then I recalled the incident of the morning.

Even so, when I asked about it indirectly,

“It will be good until you try to do something?”

Fast Reply.

There are also girls like this who are frank or act manly.

Or else, am I being trusted? or am I being underestimated……

Rather, the talk just went too smoothly!

I if object her words, won’t I be thought as a man who can self-constrain himself?

That……yep, it will definitely be hard to live on afterwards.

No well it’s a complete truth that I can’t sef-constrain myself, but I want to avoid letting a girl I’ve just met know about that fact.

And the inn has favorable terms so I really don’t want her to reject me living there.

And so, I accepted her and let her guide me.

The inn Elk is living in is called ‘Bermuda’.

……I thought ‘What if I went in there and can’t ever come back out’ for a moment……anyhow, putting off the first impression I got from the name,

I enter the inn thinking that it would be good if it’s a comfortable place.

“Welcome! To Bermuda where ‘Once you enter you can’t leave out!’”

We are welcomed by an excessively energetic girl.

Her age is maybe 2 years lower than mine? She has brown pony tail hair reaching her shoulders. Her face is childish and is fair-skinned. More than anything her smile is really bright for my eyes!

I ignore the welcoming lines which actually are the same as what I thought before entering.

“By the way, I’m Tanya, the self-proclaimed poster girl of this inn! Welcome Customers♪”

Self-proclaimed hell with it. But she really is girl full of spirit, to the extent that it will irritate most of the people.

I don’t hate it, though

“Ah, Yes Thank you. Er, is there any room vacant? I want to live here for some time.”

“Yes, with pleasure~!”

Is this a bar or what.

When I glance at my side, Elk is face palming with a worn-out expression.

“The only flaw of this inn……”

I see, so this girl is always full of spirit.

From what I heard, looks like Tanya-chan who is also the daughter of the owner of this inn helps from being a poster girl to being a waitress in the dining hall.

She is good-looking and has cheerful personality, so she is popular among the customers, but looks like Elk is not good with noisy places.

“Ah? Isn’t it Elk-san. Eh, What, you brining a man here, is spring finally going to come for you?”

“It’s not that, you don’t need to pry to any further.”

“Aw, boring. I thought I will be getting the chance to choose the name of the future child.”

“Just how many steps forward are you thinking about, idiot! Stop speaking ridiculous jokes in front the person himself! I’m sorry Minato, you don’t need to pay attention to this girl at all!”

“Hmm, so he is called Minato? Is it beginning of a love story?”

“I’m telling you it’s fricking different! ……Minato let’s change this inn, ‘kay? I know other good inns too!”

“Aww, don’t say something so lonely, Onee-sama♪”

“Who is the Onee-sama you creep! Geez, it’s good that you are popular right now, but if you keep on serving them with this attitude soon enough they will disappear?”

“It fine, It’s fine. I only serve and tease Elk-san to this extent.”

“What the !!”

Elk, your character is changing.

I’m curious that why Elk became like this, but for now let’s ignore it.

But well, if she is always being teased like this, it’s natural for her get fed up.

“Incidentally, which is your room, Elk?”

“My room is in the inner part on the second floor.”

“Is that so, I see. Then Tanya-chan if you can do it then I want my room to be……—”

“Understood~, You want your room next to Elk-san’s room,right?”

“—On the first floor.”

Well, I want to have the floor different at least. It’s not like I would do something if it is the same floor.

Tanya-chan made a face saying ‘Tsk’ but she does her work ‘honestly’ because she quickly brought out necessary documents.

“Fill the name and number of days you want to stay here. The rest we will write. A-And if possible write the

type of girl you prefer here."

I take back what I just said.

And from what I hear, there are not many rooms vacant on the first floor……the ones that are vacant are big sized rooms and medium-sized rooms.

The medium-sized rooms are about the size of a normal room in a Japanese-lodging. 50 copper coins for 1 night.

The big sized rooms are almost the size of a room in a high-class hotel. 1 silver coin for 1 night.

Well from the currency values I heard from Elk, I have a lot of money with me. I'll go with the medium-sized room, it isn't like I desire a high-class room.

In truth they also have small rooms around the size of 'small rooms' in a business hotel. It's price if also pretty reasonable, 30 coppers for 1 night, by the way Elk is also living in this type of room.

But unfortunately, these rooms on both floors are full and only the other types of rooms are left. Can't be helped.

Incidentally, there is a common bath. The people living in small rooms have to give extra fees but the people living in big-sized and medium-sized rooms don't have to.

I pay the price for a medium-sized room on the first floor for 1 week. In total it is 3 silver coins and 50 copper coins.

I take the key for the room and when I glance at my behind, Elk was getting red due to the jokes by Tanya-chan. It seems like she will throw her anger towards me if I say anything, so ignore for now.

Elk spoke 'Good grief……!'. Thank you for your hard work.

☆☆☆

A little later, Elk asked me to come to her room saying 'I have to talk about something'. So, I lock the room which I just now took and head towards her room.

Though I lock it, it's not like there is anything valuable inside the room.

Anyhow, every adventurer including me and Elk moves here and there with their personal belongings……or perhaps I should say, equipments. And those equipments mostly are of good quality.

So, there are most people who don't leave their equipments in the inn and keep on wearing it to prevent theft.

And above all I have gotten the 'Hyperspace Backpack' from mom. And if I have this I don't have to worry about my living space.

It has limits, but still it has the capacity as that of a large storage room.

And should I say as expected? because Elk doesn't has much belonging inside her room. The only things there are things needed for daily life and things needed for adventurer work.

It somehow feels just too low things……well, it can't be helped even if I think about it.

Elk puts away the bag filled with the raw materials brought from the labyrinth and gives me an eye signal saying 'Sit'. I accept her offer. I sit on a chair while Elk sits on her bed.

"Minato, the raw materials we brought is it alright to sell them at the guild tomorrow?"

"Eh? Ah, Yeah it alright. Is it something you can sell just by bringing it over there?"

"More or less. Though it takes time for investigating the origin of the raw materials, but these are of low-level so it will be over in some minutes. And, erm……"

"?"

"Erm, the distribution of profits from selling it……"

Yeah, the money comes after selling the raw materials.

Well it will be good with 50-50, it is the basic,right?

Elk was also saying that, but right now her words seem evasive.

And keeps on murmuring to herself.

"……No, it will be good if I speak it out straightforwardly."

? What does that mean?

Elk takes a deep breath while I'm trying to find the meaning of her words and—

"You see, Minato. I have some troubles going on and so I need money. And that's why……can you increase my share even if a little bit?"

–sincerely requests.

Ah, I see, this really is something that is hard to say.

"Yeah, it's fine with me."

"That's right, you won't increase……EH!? i-Is that fine!?"

For what reason are you freaking out?

I thought she will happily accept my words, but what came back was an expression full of surprise.

"N-No, but can you that easily……"

"After all, Elk has taught me many things and you see, I don't have any need for money right now."

"B-But is it fine? You were the one who killed most demons?"

That much is nothing for me.

Surely, I did kill the most of the demons, but rather, I requested her to let me fight them.

After all, all the monsters(The animal types were more though) we met were full of spirit and came at us in large crowds.

And so, I fought against them to my heart's extent. There is no need to worry about it.

Argh, it was a let down.

I speak to Elk who doesn't seem like she is digesting my words at all.

"Elk, you can take the whole profit for yourself?"

"No, T-That, I can't do it!?"

Why? You need money, right?

She doesn't seem like she will tell me the reason for it, so I won't ask about it.

Just like I said before, it's not like I have a need of money right now, so it's completely fine with me even if Elk takes all the money.

To put it bluntly, I can earn that much every time. Only the prey is needed for it.

"You really gonna give me all that? Aren't you being too nice?"

"I don't know if I'm being to nice, well, there is no reason to reject your request. Just think that I'm doing it on a whim."

"I-I see, Thank You……It's difficult for me to say……I already have a feeling of guilt from before (depress) ……"

She shows a somewhat depressed face, but a little after shows a happy expression.

Taking all the money does feel awkward.

Anyhow, we talked for a little while and then made our way to eat meal together.

In this dining hall, only the breakfast is free. Well for the guests there are discounts.

And I have a lot of money in my purse, so I ate a lot of food.

When I asked that why the dinner isn't made in sets, though breakfast is. The reply that came was that adventurers in general like to eat and drink as much as they want in night and so the dinner in sets is not made.

And after eating, I bid farewell to Elk and return to my room.

Well anyhow my first day as an adventurer went smoothly. I lie on the bed which is the first bed I lay down on after leaving the home.

Well then,

For the first time I fought against demons different from the ones in the forest, honestly speaking……

No, let's leave it.

It’s not good to think about something that will lead to carelessness.

Even Elk said that only ‘weak’ demons appear in that labyrinth. There will be many chances to fight against strong monsters from now on.

Though I don’t know if Elk will be there with me at that time.

Well I can’t do anything by thinking. Let’s sleep.

I turn off the lights.

I’m one of those people who can’t sleep in a complete dark room. And so, I set the candle in the candle-stand.

And when I bring my palm near there.

The candle catches up the fire in an instant.

“……I didn’t even had chance to use ‘this’ today.”

I mutter words to myself.

Today I didn’t use this and only took care of demons with normal ‘Taijutsu’, but……chances will come to use ‘this’ which I used always in the forest.

I want to fight against those guys before my instincts become blunt. It might be imprudent, but I’m itching to use my skills.

I close the curtains and close my eyes.

Ah, by the way, the share distribution ended up with being 8:2 of Elk and mine.

It feels like not much changed.

☆☆☆

In late night,

Elk left the ‘Bermuda’ inn and entered the small dark alley behind the inn.

In general, the so-called back alleys are dangerous places for a woman in night. The usual Elk always stays on her guard and doesn’t leave the inn at night-time.

But, today she went inside the back alley.

And the one she is meeting is there.

She entered the back alley and after turning on some corners reaches a place with some light.

The men gathered there all had dangerous and grim expression. They all turn their line of sight towards Elk who just came in.

But, Elk knowing that they will not attack, starts walking while pretending to be calm.

One of the men from that suspicious group of men steps forwards towards Elk.

“You know what to you have to say, Elk?”

“……You guys got problem with the incident in morning?”

“Of course. Just what were you thinking by bringing that monster……though no one is dead but everyone is injured and now can’t move.”

“I can’t do anything about that. ……Even I didn’t knew that he would be so strong……And furthermore, you guys were the ones who made this plan, it would’ve been fine if you used your minds?”

“What did you say bitch……”

“Stop it, nothing good will happen if you argue here……. And I now understand that it’s not only your responsibility this time. But casualties did appear and we all are right now angry. So stop from speaking in a provocative tone. For the sake of both of us.”

Another man comes in and calms down the man who got worked up due to the argument.

He speaks in a soothing tone. He warns everyone and all shut their mouth.

When he sees that both parties have calmed down. He then faces towards Elk.

“So what are you going to do? I will regard this time as bad luck but what about your older problems that are yet to be solved?”

“You gotten friendlier with that man,right? He has some good equipments, snatch a single weapon from him!”

“It’s impossible. At a glance he does seem like someone who isn’t thinking about anything, but he has ridiculous physical strength. If I make a blunder while doing that, I might be killed.”

“That is troublesome. But what are you gonna do, go for some other adventurer?”

“……I reject. I really don’t want to involve unrelated people in this.”

“You say that after doing it, huh, did you go blind by the money he has? I won’t let you say that it’s wrong?”

“……!”

“……Let’s say you don’t do that. Then how are you going to make money? You won’t make it with proper means, even you should know it, right?”

“……I might be able to make it from those proper means. If I can get him to fight for me……”

“Hmm, I see. In that case, well, good luck. I’m telling you once again that I won’t increase the deadline.”

He steps near Elk and then whispers in her ears.

“You know what happens……if you don’t make it?”

Saying that the man turns back and leaves the place.

The other men follow after him.

There are those who are cursing Elk, some are clicking their tongues and those who don't have any intention to both are looking at her with lustful eyes,

After they all disappear in the darkness after following the man at front,

Elk clenches her fist very tightly that blood starts flowing from it.

Chapter 12 – Abnormal Situation

Dawn of the next morning.

I wake up at 6 o'clock, all due to the habit from childhood.

When I was in the western-style house, I woke up early in the morning and after doing the morning training, I had my breakfast.

I can go outside the city for morning practice, but I'm not confident whether I will be able to return back……

It's alright, from now on the morning practice will be when I have time.

My living environment has changed, so I can't keep the daily life routine as same.

I should adapt myself here.

And I'm going to Guild with Elk today to sell the raw materials. I will at that time leave the city and if I didn't come back, then I'm sorry.

But there is not much change in my free time, so I decide to do some normal warm-up.

While remembering the lyrics of that song that played on the radio in the morning at 6 o'clock.

……No good. I forgot it!

It's natural. The last time I head it was when i was working at a part-time job in the neighbourhood association during my second year of junior high……it's already 20 years.

☆☆☆

I somehow kill 1 hour and at 7 am which is also the breakfast time, I head into the dining hall and an unexpected situation was waiting for me.

"Eh, Elk left already?"

"Yea, early in the morning. Ah, she said me to hand over a letter to you."

When I enter the dining hall, Tanya-chan came running to me and informed about the situation.

I take the letter. Er, so what is written here……what?

" 'You see, today I promised some of my adventurer friends to go to a dungeon. They came early in morning and now it's too late to reject them.' and as such is written in letter and after writing the letter she also said that 'it feels awkward to wake up the sleeping Minato-san.'"

"Yeah, I see. Thank you Tanya-chan for explaining it to me in simple language."

But, now I don't even need to read the letter.

Still let's read it,

Looks like she had plans to go to a dungeon with those ‘adventurer friends’ before noon.

But one of those friends said something like ‘I found a great information. So let’s go to the dungeon right now’, and in a hurry she left with them.

That’s why, she wants me to do the selling of raw materials today or postpone it till tomorrow.

Just how early did she wake up.

And Tanya-chan too who heard that message and also took the letter.

“Fufufu, though I look like this, I’m pretty strong in morning. And it’s natural to go to market for buying ingredients at 4 o’clock. That is one of the secrets for the good quality of the food in this inn.”

I see, so for getting the fresh and good quality ingredients, she does a lot of work. She is young but she is really dependable.

I though she only had the character of girl full of spirit, but now my opinion about her improved.

While being impressed, I eat the breakfast compiled of Bread and Soup and Bacon and eggs.

It’s not much but it’s good.

“Well that aside. Minato-san? Did you have any fun last night?”

“Wh, hey, a girl shouldn’t say something like that.”

Tanya-chan asks such a thing with a grin on her face.

No, I didn’t had any fun.

So this is her true character after all.

Unfortunate for you, I didn’t get out of room after I went in.

“Hmm~, People like Minato-san are rare nowadays who are serious and mostly uninterested in things.”

“Is that so? I think it’s normal”

“It’s not like that. Generally the male adventurers are violent and egoistic. Sometimes, they even do sexual harassment while I’m working. Well, now I’m used to it.”

Now that I think about it, there are many people like them as adventurers even in Web Novels I have read.

In fact, it might be natural for them to do what they want to in the night as they spend their whole day in dungeons fighting the demons. Though, I have doubts whether the sexual harassment is also needed.

“In worst cases, there are also people who say ‘I’ll pay you, give me some nighttime service’. Geez, If they want to have fun with women, it’s good if they go to the red-light district. Ah, would Minato-san want me to give you pleasure at night?”

“Haha, no-no, you’re charming and beautiful, but that is just too much.”

I do uphold my morals. And her outward appearance also is a major factor.

She is good-looking and is in her growth period……but spreading my son in front of a girl who looks like middle school student is a little……

Anyhow, so this place has a 'Red-light district' here……

I did had hunch that it might be here.

"……(*grin*)"

"……What!"

"Um, Minato-san, have you been told that you're too easy to read."

"……Well many people I've met have told me."

Including the previous life.

I got scared seeing Tanya-chan's face which looked like a child who just got an interesting toy. But if I pay heed to it and start explaining it, it won't be like putting oil in fire but it will be like putting gasoline in fire and so I won't pay any heed to it.

"Fufufu, well Minato-san is also a man? Ah, but Minato-san is sometimes too much obedient, that's why don't get involved with nasty people when you go there? recently there also rumours about kidnapping."

"Hmm…, Is that so? What sort of rumour is it?"

"This is just what I've heard? They pretend to faint in the street and act like as if the person who saved them had met them due to a coincidence. Then they lead their saviour to the trap where the other kidnappers are waiting. They then take all the valuables and in the end also sell off the person. Really Scary~"

……Hmm, now this truly is scary.

I eat the breakfast while talking with her and slowly the dining hall starts to get crowded. Looks like other adventurers woke up.

And then Tanya-chan returns to work. Talking time finished.

Well then, shall I sell the raw materials by myself. It isn't much amount that I can't carry.

However, isn't Elk trusting me just too much. I met her yesterday only. Did she never thought that I will run off with the money I will get from the selling of raw materials.

……Well not like I will do it.

Well then, I will sell the raw materials after I finish eating.

☆☆☆

(POV Changes to Elk)

When I woke up in the morning, all of a sudden an acquaintance adventurer came and invited me saying 'I found a great information. So let's go to the dungeon right now''.

And so, I left early in the morning without eating any breakfast.

I don't know about the credibility of the information but it is about some sort of 'Treasure'.

The ones who find the 'treasure room' and 'treasure' first, it belongs to them. Time is essential. It's no wonder everyone is in a hurry for finding them.

Even I at this moment am feeling restless.

In truth, I wanted to invite Minato too after seeing his battle prowess yesterday, but it somehow felt awkward to wake him up at 5 o'clock in morning. And I didn't even have a promise to go with him.

I was worried whether I should go with them for searching the treasure room or go with Minato.

It's uncertain whether there is a treasure room, but if the information is right, then I get a jackpot. Even if we all split it equally, I will still be able to get quite an amount of money.

If I go with Minato, I'll be able to certainly get considerable amount of demons raw materials. I won't be able to gain that much amount of war spoils even if I go with other adventurers. But that profit can never catch up with the profit I'll gain if I find a treasure room.

And in the end, I chose the former option.

It's also because of the reason that I couldn't ask him yesterday to come with me to the labyrinth today. If I had asked him, then maybe my choice would've been different.

Anyhow, I entrusted the letter to Tanya and decided to leave alone.

She made a simple bentou and handed it to me, frankly it saved me. If she always showed the good part of her then it will save me a lot.

And right now, I'm in front of the entrance to 'Labyrinth of Naga'

The people coming with me are acquaintances which I can trust.

Well, they have bad behaviour, anyhow, they aren't like the pervert from yesterday.

Well we don't have that much good friendship, so it's not like they will put their lives at risk for protecting me.

By the way, my rank as an adventurer is E.

Other members are also E except for one who is rank D.

It depends on a person's ability, but generally Rank E means promotion from being a beginner and rank C means that, that person is a good adventurer. At the same time, it is said that rank C is the limit for a person with no talents.

It isn't just based on strength as there are many strong people within the same rank so the rank promotion is based on taking the researching skills and knowledge into consideration.

In truth, I have mostly the abilities and knowledge not related to fight, though I learnt it from mom. In terms of fighting I'm quite low.

……Just what might be the level of fighting ability of Minato.

He has just registered at Guild, so his rank is still 'F'. From what I saw yesterday, he is quite, no, really powerful.

After all, there isn't any person who will fight against demons bare-handed. Even if there are, it is limited to those races with a lot of physical power like dwarf.

That's why when yesterday he said 'I will fight empty-handed', I thought it was impossible……but a little later he really did defeat the demons bare-handed. Seeing that I was considerably shocked.

I did think he is strong from the time he defeated the bandits, but it was outside my expectations that he is that much strong.

Though Minato is not like a flower's stem but just from where that power comes from inside that slender body.

While I am thinking like that,

"Now that I think about it, Elk you're recently desperate to raise money?"

The swordsman (Rank D. He is 23 years old and the oldest.) I am accompanying, asks me.

"……Not really, just some circumstances."

"Hmm, Well, I'm sorry but we can't help with you with your circumstances."

"I am not even expecting that you will ever help."

"You're cold. Well if you want money that much, shall I help you?"

And so the girl who is a thief (It's not like she does stealing or so. It's just that she is skilled in exploring dungeons and search treasure) asks me.

She earns money as an adventurer and as a prostitute. With just that much, she is the most rich person within our group.

In reality only she is using weapons and equipments better than mine and the other three. Doing those works does give a lot of money.

In truth, even I have been invited to work as a prostitute. She said she would introduce me to the brothel she is working at. Though I always reject her offer.

But this time,

"……I will think about it."

"Eh? Elk, you really? Do you have a fever?"

"What, you surprised that I didn't reject the offer this time?"

"When you really want to become a prostitute, do tell me? I will contribute in the sales."

“What, weren’t you going to help me?”

“This and that are different! Just like how a man is different below from above!”

Other guys who heard our talk start talking.

Do they want to embrace me that much? Someone as plain like me?

“You even accepting the offer, you’re that desperate? By any chance, you got stuck in a debt cycle?”

“Impossible, that won’t happen! It’s Elk after all”

“Yeah, that can’t be to her who doesn’t spend even a little and always manages her budget more sincerely than other people.”

“……Well she must have a lot going on. A lot. Though it all might be personal.”

Their words. Stab my heart.

Right now I’m standing at the point where if I let the feelings take control over me, I would get depressed really easily.

And as a result, I can’t say anything to them……Even yesterday, I got involved with something that I can’t tell other people.

In the end, it only ended up as a plan failure……I can’t believe that I even went that low just to get money. Really disgusting.

A little later, after experiencing that guy’s innocent kindness, I now think that doing something like that wasn’t needed.

And I thought.

That I won’t do something like that ever again.

Anyhow, there is no time to talk about useless things.

I need to, find that treasure room or what, and along the way collect the raw materials of demons and earn a lot!

……So that I don’t have to something like that ever again.
☆☆☆

(POV changes to Minato)

I go to the guild and submit my guild card along with the raw materials I hunted yesterday.

Such as fangs and fur of Wolf, skin of Lizard and meat of Rabbit.

Seems like the materials were in a good state, so I got 2 silver coins and 40 copper coins in return. This is quite high?

Well, this job is accompanied with danger and adventurer do this work on a daily basis. If I take the lodging

expenses in consideration, this much is reasonable.

The person at the desk was Riin-san whom I met yesterday. I was praised by her, because I'm a rookie who just registered yesterday and yet I brought quite an amount of raw materials.

I still told her 'I did all this along with Elk'. I don't want to monopolize all the glory for completing this feat, in the first place. We both were supposed to come here together for selling the materials.

Well then, now that my business here is done,

Shall I also go to the 'Labyrinth' after doing some shopping? Yesterday I returned to the inn pretty fast, but I've heard that in this city there are many shops that are selling items which help with the investigation work.

Ah, before that,

"Riin-san is it true that I can buy the map for the 'Labyrinth' here?"

Elk was saying it yesterday that in the guild, the map for neighboring dungeons or danger areas are being sold.

Most adventurers that are not familiar with dungeon buy the map and move according to it.

I will need it for when I enter the 'Labyrinth' and so I decided to buy it.

I want to become familiar with it.

It's painful that mom never told me how to read a map.

After all, inside that forest, thanks to the 'Coffin' that mom brought with her, the demons around the house were particularly strong. And so, if I ventured too far from home, I just needed to go to the place with stronger demons to find my way back home.

If that didn't work, then the I followed the food's smell that while riding the winds. And somehow, in the end I was always able to return home.

"Yes, it can be bought? Just, it isn't sold here but the opposite reception window."

"Understood. Ah, do you also sell the map of city? I came here just yesterday and so I'm scared that what if I get lost……"

"Yes we sell it too. It is updated on periodic intervals. Caution is required because there won't any information of any shop that is made or closed recently."

I see,

Well it will be good enough if I know the location of 'Bermuda' on it.

I went the reception window as instructed by Riin-san and bought the 2 maps.

Well then, now I'll do some shopping and head towards the 'Labyrinth'. I also need to learn, how to read a map by myself.

Well for the part of going to the labyrinth, I don't think I'll get lost after all I just need to walk straight on the stone paved highway stretching from the main gate of the city.

☆☆☆

(POV changes to Elk)

……It's strange.

That was my impression after roaming inside the labyrinth for 1 hour.

"Shit! Once again. huh!"

SFX: Zasshu (Slash)

One comrade steps forward and slays the goblin that attacked us.

While swinging the blade, he takes down 1 more goblin.

The ones covering him up are me and the thief girl. We intercept the other goblins or demons……wolf etc that are attacking from rear.

And supporting us is the magician friend who excels in long-distance attacks. Along with his help we finish all the demons that attack at us.

……We have repeated the same pattern for 1 hour and some minutes.

"Don't you think……there are more demons?"

"You think that too?"

From the time we entered and till we reached here, for some reason we encountered just too many monsters.

We are cautiously investigating small rooms and passages with dead ends frequently. When the investigation ends or sometimes didn't end, the demons have attacked us many times.

And somehow, it seems like they are attacking us in anger and are releasing just too much bloodlust. Furthermore, they are attacking in larger numbers than usual. It's kind of ghastly?

And from the time we came down to the underground floor 2 from floor 1, it seems like they have gotten even more in numbers.

I have entered this dungeon a lot of times and have experienced many things, but this is a first for me too.

Usually these guys have either good mood or bad mood but today they are all and only angry.

……What is it? Somehow, I'm having a really bad premonition.

"Hey, shouldn't we go back already……?"

And suddenly the swordsman friend shakes off the blood sticking on the sword and speaks as if saying 'What the hell you're saying.'

“Huh? We have just entered, we haven’t found any trace of treasure or anything yet. You got cold feet?”

“Thats right. Doesn’t this happen sometimes if you’re an adventurer? You don’t need to worry just because some demons are angry.”

“No, but……”

“I’m also curious about it. It’s not on the level of a little angry but they’re considerably angry.” (Elk)

“Whoa! even Elk you saying that. Aren’t you the one who needs the money the most?”

“No, well, that is true, but……”

I certainly said so, but I am feeling a really nasty chill down my spine.

This type of thing is a first for me, truly.

I’m still a not-so-strong newbie and so I have made many plans for securing my safety. Thanks to that, I can somehow intuitively sense any danger.

“Don’t worry about it. I have ventured here a lot more than you guys, this sort of thing happens sometimes? If you get the timing of them attacking, then there is no problem at all”

“True. And if it gets bad then just run. This is only the second floor. No matter what appears here, we four can easily defeat them.”

……It’ll be good if that’s the case.

My bad premonitions are mostly right.

This bad feeling just doesn’t go off, even with you puffing your chest.

…I think it’ll be better if I prepare to run at anytime whenever anything bad occurs.

While I was worrying about that,

The footsteps of something heading towards us reach our ears from the dark area in front of us.

We 4 by reflex speak ‘Again, huh’ as if bored with it and set up their weapons while waiting for the something……most probably a monster to come in front of us.

For some reason there are many footsteps, it’s still the second floor so there won’t be any strong monsters here. At most there only goblins or lizards.

We are 4 people and one is a magician. If we coordinate properly, we will be able to fight.

……Even so,

It strange that I’m feeling lonely just because that guy is not with me today.

While I am thinking that, the thing that appeared in front of our eyes was……

“……Eh!?“

A monster we never expected to meet.

It is a monkey like monster with humanoid form and has ochre colored body hair growing all over it.

They have bigger bodies than that of goblin and have sharp claws and teeth. They are the……

Wha-, M-Mad Monkeys!?“

“Just why are these guys on this floor!?”

*KiiKii*Their high-pitched voice resounds with ear-splitting loudness.

Having our expectations overturned in a split second the party falls into panic.

That’s natural. These ‘Mad Monkeys’ don’t appear on early floors ever.

They are the monsters that appear now and then on 4th and 5th floor. Why are they on the second floor then!? And in a crowd, no less!?

Their rank as per guild is D. The difficulty is worlds apart from goblins.

We guys are in a party, that’s why it would’ve been fine with 1 or 2 of them. But no matter how you look at it, they are coming here in a really large damned crowd!

We can’t win by fighting them. At this rate, we will be bitten to death.

We 4 four after confirming this fact, start running at full speed.

☆☆☆

I ran and ran and after turning at some corners, I was finally able to shake off the monkeys.

I got separated from others while running. Right now, I can’t do anything other than believing that they are fine.

But more than that……

There is a more serious problem here.

“Ha……Ha……Just why are these guys here……?”

The Mad Monkey’s who should appear on the 4th floor and above are on the second floor. It’s an abnormal situation.

I start walking towards the exit of ‘Labyrinth’ because I don’t want to stay in this labyrinth for long. I remember the way back after all.

……But, in one of the corridor that I have to cross to reach the exit, those guys are camping there.

And from the voices I can hear, there seem to be more of them than the crowd from before.

Fortunately, I am still not found by them. And so I am hiding in the shadows and waiting for them to leave. Though, I highly doubt the possibility of that happening.

Having a crowd of rank D Mad Monkeys is as same as seeing a nightmare.

But, no matter what I say the situation won't overturn. I can't do anything but wait for them to go somewhere.

The moment I was thinking that,

The voices of Mad Monkeys changed from 'KiiKii' to 'GiiGii' as if threatening something. It seems like it's gotten a lot annoying from before.

I thought for a second that I have been discovered, but looks like it's something different.

The owner of the voices, monkeys, started running towards some other place while raising their voices.

Looks like they have found a new prey.

It seemed like they are going to kill that demon -maybe an adventurer- and were emitting bloodlust.

But even if that prey is 'Someone' rather than 'Something' I can't do anything to help them.

Fighting that many Mad Monkeys is only reckless unless one is really confident in their fighting ability.

Even if I go out it won't be of any help. It's like pouring a handful of water in a large fire. I can do anything after all, I'm doubtful that I will win against even one of them.

The only thing I can do, is to pray that, that pitiful prey 'Someone' or 'Something' will be able to win or run - If possible, the prey should run away from my place- against/from them.

The moment I try to bear with the regret and powerless of can't be able to do anything, while gritting my teeth.

SFX: Dokan!! (Boooom!!! Bdooom!! BTooom!!)

"!?"

Suddenly one Mad Monkey came flying from the other side of the corridor.

I instinctively take defensive stance, but then realize that this place is still not discovered by them.

I carefully and timidly peek from the corner of the corridor to see the situation.

At that time, I realized some misunderstandings along with astonishment.

Misunderstanding #1: That Mad Monkey 'Came flying' but at the same time it didn't 'Came flying'. To be precise, it 'It was punched and blown till here.

Misunderstanding #2: That Mad Monkey has already parted from this world, so I won't be attacked.

While I realize the two things,

Suddenly it becomes more noisier than before on the other side of the corridor.

There is only……strange noisiness.

It doesn't feel like a fight between demons.

There is sound of sparks.

There is sound of flame as if something is burning.

And there are also sounds of something breaking and sound of wind blowing.

Somehow, it feels like the voices of Mad Monkeys is changing from angry voice to scream……?

Just as I thought, that what if an adventurer that uses magic is fighting the Mad Monkeys.

The voices of Mad Monkeys decrease and suddenly stop.

Along with the sounds of spark and wind.

And immediately after,

"Elk, it's over. So you can come out now~?"

"——!?'

I heard that voice. I step forward in amazement.

I see the figure of that kindhearted person……standing in that place while calmly brushing off the dust stuck on his clothes.

And then,

Near his feet, there are more than 20 Mad Monkeys,

But they are all now dead corpses that won't release that annoying voice ever again.

Seeing my astonished face with eyes open wide, Minato returns a smile with his innocent child-like looking face.

☆☆☆

(POV changes to Minato)

Phew, That surprised me.

I entered the 'Labyrinth of Naga' thinking that if by chance I can meet Elk.

And all of a sudden monkey-like monsters came attacking me.

Furthermore, they were for some reason fighting with good coordination. It seemed like they have a lot experience in group fights.

They were stronger than the goblins from yesterday, but yeah, they were great things to warm-up.

Worried about Elk with these demons roaming here, I started searching for her and suddenly my nose caught a familiar smell.

It was the smell of……the bacon I ate in my breakfast in the dining hall.

At that moment, I remember Tanya-chan telling me that she made a bentou for Elk.

And I realize that she must have made it with just some left-overs.

Smell of spices was also reaching my nose. I tried to follow the smell thinking ‘what if’ and Bingo!

I found Elk quite fast.

Ah, I also did the killing of those monkey-like demons.

Are they all violent and used to fighting in groups. They came attacking me as soon as they discovered me, but I killed them all.

After that, I succeed in meeting up with Elk who was hiding in the shadows of corner of the corridor.

Looks like nothing happened to her Yeah, it’s good that she is fine.

……As for returning route, i’ll leave it to Elk. Tsk, I really forgot it.

I bought the map, it won’t be good if I don’t use it……. Ah, but, this time I entered here through the entrance, so if I trace my smell…….

Anyhow, while I was thinking that, the frozen Elk thaws.

She told me that these monkey-like demons are called ‘Mad Monkeys’ and about their levels and parts which can be teared off.

Their raw materials will sell for more than the ones from yesterday. Yes, I made profit!

And along with that, I was told a worrisome thing.

These Mad Monkeys are the monsters that only appear on floors below here.

It’s an abnormal situation that these are appearing on early floors.

Hmm, so this is what it was?

Is something going to occur in this ‘Labyrinth of Naga’……

Ah, jeez……It’s my first dungeon after leaving home and I’m already involved in some crap situation.

Chapter 13 – Secret of Wall Paintings

"—Seiino!!"

The fist strikes a monster while making a dull *Bakii* sound. Eventually, the monster dies with just one punch.

The demon is not the monkey from before, but a wolfy-bear……how should I put it, it's appearance is that of a small bear with the head of a wolf. It has red eyes and brown hair. It looks like the mane of a horse.

It's not fast like those monkeys but it does has quite an amount of power. According to Elk this is called as 'Little Beast'.

"……It's really strange"

Elk murmurs while seeing me killing the 'Little Beast' just now.

"Strange?……by any chance, this guy also doesn't appear here?"

"Yeah. They live in deepest parts of lower floors. And they are on this first floor……"

That's right.

Right after kicking the asses of those Mad Monkeys (by alone), I heard from Elk that the dungeon is going through an abnormal phenomenon.

This dungeon, 'Labyrinth of Naga' is an ancient ruin starting from ground floor to 6 floors underground. In total it is of 7 floors.

And either the floor itself or somewhere inside the floor are the demons territories. And it naturally distributes weaker demons from stronger demons, which is convenient for adventurers.

There is a food chain made up inside, and due to that there is rarely any change in the 'distribution'.

According to Elk, right now that 'Distribution' is strange.

For example, on the first floor and near entrance only low-levelled 'Goblin', 'Rabbit' and 'Wolf' appear which rookie adventurer can kill for training.

If they are unfortunate, they will meet up with the 'Spider' which I fought against yesterday or a 'Black Wolf' nothing else.

The more floors you descend you'll meet up with more powerful demons or so is the distribution system.

Like, a 'Scorpion' about the size of a dog.

or giant cockroaches called as 'Roach' which prefer darkness and crawl super fast.

or flame throwing lizards called as 'Red Lizard'

The 'Little Beast' I just defeated is the most dangerous of them all. Normally, they only appear in the lowest floor. Many say that a rookie can't do anything in front of it.

And that right now……attacked us on the first floor.

This is obviously abnormal. I can't help but think that something is occurring here.

Though I'm curious to know the reason for this abnormal situation, but as they say it's foolish to deliberately poke a sleeping snake. And so the principle that says 'Let the sleeping dog lie' is important here!

And just like Elk said, I decide to leave here as soon as possible.

I tried to……but due to the demons appearing here and there we can't move as we want.

Well, I can kick their asses if I was alone but right now there is Elk with me.

I have to fight while protecting her.

And so we are roaming here and there to find the route with monsters that are not much fast.

Even so, there are still monsters like the previous one.

While I'm thinking that, Elk is tearing off the useful parts of the 'Little Beast',

"This guys is a rank C? I had only saw it in documents before……if guys like this are loitering here then all the rookie adventurers will be killed."

"Hmm, now this is an abnormal situation."

C, huh. This is great.

A goblin is E, the monkeys from before are D and this one even one rank above it.

From what I've heard, Elk's rank is E and her friends are also E and D. Even if they all work together, it will be difficult to survive……this is something even I can understand.

……By the way, this demon……

"Hey Elk, I found it strange when fighting the monkey from before too"

"? What happened?"

"Most of these guys are thin?"

Let it be the monkeys or this bear-ish (tearing off completed) thing.

It's like their bodily fluids have been sucked out. It seems like they have too less amount of meat according to their body size……yeah, as if it's due to malnutrition.

Elk says that she hasn't see them so she doesn't know about their physique. But if it's like what I'm feeling……

"They lost to some other demon in a fight and came here after losing their place to live, maybe?"

"No……that can't be. In the first place, this guy is the most strong demon in this dungeon. Others are 'Mad Monkeys' and 'Statue' only……"

So it's impossible to imagine a demon who can defeat them, present in this dungeon, eh

Ah, the 'Statue' is a demon with a body of stone statue and it moves. It mostly appears in historic ruins. It's rank is D.

But, it's only logical if I think about it……Nh?

"I just heard something……'

"? What? Scream of demons?"

"No, this is coming from before."

I already had good ear and after enhancing my hearing ability along with other senses, I can hear things that Elk can't. So it's only natural for Elk have a '?' float above her head.

The scream of demons are pretty far right now.

But just for one second I did hear it……

The sound of something really big crawling.

☆☆☆

I walk while worrying about it and reach a place which is really spacious.

It's area is about the gymnasium of an elementary school, no, a little small?

This labyrinth is pretty big and there a lot of places which are spacious but this one just somehow seems too much spacious.

And in front of us are numerous corridors. Well this is the so called corridor junction place. Pretty cliche.

This place is underground so it's cool and refreshing. Air is flowing here from somewhere. This is spacious so there is no locked-up feeling here. If you just be careful from demons then this place quite a pleasant place.

"Only you're the one who says……that it's pleasant in a dungeon where demons are roaming in crowds."

Oh, I see.

But, this really is more pleasant that I expected. It's spacious, it's not much humid so there is no need to worry about moss accumulating here and this place doesn't has any weird smell.

When I once again think about, it's does pique my interest. This dungeon is dark and underground then why doesn't this place has any humidity? Is there any drainage system here?

I casually ask about it to Elk,

"Yeah, that is because the rock walls here are made of volcanic ash."

"Volcanic ash?"

"Yeah. There is a volcano near this dungeon. Right now there is no danger of it erupting, but……long ago it was an active volcano. And when the volcanic ash piled up after it erupting, it was used to make rocks and it

is the ingredient used in making this dungeon. That's why the drainage is good."

While hearing Elk's story, I surveyed this spacious room.

I see, so this all is made of volcanic ash.

In my previous world, volcanic ash was white, I think, well this is another world with magic and swords. It won't help me thinking about these things.

Well, now that volcano has also stopped its activities so, there is nothing to worry……

……Just wait!?

(A volcano near this place?)

My mind grasped something inside the words spoken by Elk in a nonchalant manner.

The things that are coming to my mind are……various sorts of information that I've gotten a hold of, after coming here.

There is a dormant volcano near here which used to erupt long ago.

Recently, there have been earthquakes and a part of dungeon collapsed.

The monsters who should be on lower floor are on upper floor and are thin.

And……the wall painting of snake.

"……Er, Elk, I need to ask about something?"

"Eh, what is it?"

"Do demons, hibernate?"

"Hibernate? Well there are those who do. There are also those who hibernate for 1 whole year instead of just hibernating during the time of winter. Is something wrong with that?"

"So then, do you think this hypothesis is true?"

I take a deep breath and,

"Long ago, and that so, really long ago, this volcano was near here right? Naturally, the climate would've been really hot……unlike right now."

In general places like cave or underground water areas are places where sunlight doesn't reach and are a lot cooler than the places where sunlight falls on. Then this historic ruin is not an exception from that.

But, if there is a volcano near, then it's another talk.

This place where magma falls, it would've been more than enough to somewhat warm up the ground of the dungeon. And if it was an active volcano then all the more.

"? Well that's true. So then?"

“After the volcano stopped erupting then the ground temperature fell down and the dungeon became cool and refreshing as it is right now. And that so, even before adventurers started entering this dungeon.”

“Yeah, well that is true. I’ve heard that guild investigated here after the active volcano became a dormant volcano.”

“I see, then……”

What if, by any chance.

“What if a monster hibernated due to the decline in ground temperature and……that monster woke up due to the earthquakes happening recently?”

“……Eh?”

From what I’ve heard, it seems like due to the earthquakes the bedrock broke apart which was quite sturdy.

And all of a sudden an undiscovered treasure room made it’s debut appearance.

It’s possible that……not only the treasure room made it’s debut appearance.

“And that monster is very ferocious and strong that it eats the monkeys and bear-ish monsters……Yeah, for example……”

And then I punch the wall painting of the snake made on the wall beside me.

“A……snake……like this”

Immediately after,

SFX: Zuri……ZuriZuri…… (Crawl)

“”—-!?””

……I hear it!

This time I clearly hear it.

The sound of something approaching us at a really fast speed.

“……Er, Minato?”

Elk asks me after hearing my reasoning and after hearing the crawling sound……while making an expression as if she understood the situation immediately, or rather her face is saying that she was made to understand the situation.

Her face turns pale and her legs start quivering along with her face saying ‘Please say that what I’m thinking is wrong.’

“It’s a……joke, right?”

“……Why don’t you ask it from the guy behind us?”

Immediately we turn our face back,

and it is the superb timing that it made it's appearance before us, while coming from the other side of darkness.

The thing that appeared before us is a Snake.

The same damned snake whose artistic paintings are made all over the walls of this labyrinth.

It's more thick than a log and it's skin is like an armor that can outshine other armors sold at shops and it's length is about 15 metres……rather than calling it a snake it's like a dinosaur type of big serpent.

It's like that anaconda which I saw in hollywood movies in my previous life. The impact from seeing it up front is out of this world's measuring machine. Yeah.

No doubt it. This guys is the reason for all the abnormal situation.

☆☆☆

(POV changes to Elk)

(What……is that……!?)

I switched my eyes between the faces of Minato and that 'Snake' repeatedly and fell down as if the power from my legs has been lost.

"Ah……Eh……!?"

My voice won't come out. I can't put any power in my legs.

I absolutely can't do anything against the demon which is not a normal demon.

I can't even move my own body.

I can't put power in my legs, I can't stand up. I can't run.

Now that I've lost power in my legs and sat down, I can do nothing but only wait for death to come.

……The ground under my butt, is getting wet and warm.

Looks like I have peed.

But there is no time left for me to even feel embarrassed about it.

Even after Minato sees me, I don't feel any speck of embarrassment, nothing at all. I don't care about that.

I realized that I don't even have time to think carefully after my sub-consciousness speaks in my mind 'You're going to die in the end.'

I don't have any chance of being saved in front of this demon.

And even if my legs could move, this guy is so large that it's obvious it will catch me easily.

And I can already imagine myself becoming a prey to that guy's big mouth.

I am peeing and crying too.

I lost all my hope while being in that miserable state.

SFX: Zuri……ZuriZuri……(Crawl)

Most probably, it sensed that I don't have any intention to run. The big serpent came towards me slowly without hurrying.

Slowly that face, fangs, eyes and everything that will lead me to my 'Death' is approaching towards me.

SFX: Zuri……ZuriZuri……(Crawl)

The sound of it crawling near me reaches my ears. It is gradually becoming larger.

Not just its appearance but also with the sound of it approaching me is enough to instill fear in me.

I can't move, can't resist, but I'm still scared,

My heartbeat becomes faster and I can properly hear it,

I can't stop my tears, my body is quivering, and my teeths are already chattering.

I am sure that I'm looking really miserable right now, but I……

I……

SFX: –Hyuu (Flying sound)

"……Eh?"

Suddenly, I feel like my body is floating in mid-air.

Immediately after,

I landed near the wall on the opposite side of the snake and now the distance between us quite a lot.

……I land there while being held by Minato in his arms.

A second later, I realize that I reached here while being held by Minato.

Within just one second, we distanced ourselves from the snake to an unbelievable extent.

After seeing Minato from up close……I understand that in contrast to me, Minato is quite calm even after seeing that scary devil demon.

Minato puts me on the floor gently,

"Stay behind, Elk. or rather, don't move from here."

Minato separates his eye from me and stands straight,

and then starts walking towards the snake while scowling at it.

For a second, it looked like the snake became bewildered. It's natural, after all, even the snake wouldn't have predicted it.

That a human will,

A person from the frail race which is small and weak than him is not having any speck of fear or shock like me and is standing in front of him brimming with the expectation to fight it.

“Well then……finally someone I can fight to my heart’s content made it’s appearance……?”

Chapter 14 – The Real Power

Err, the current situation is,

In front of my eyes is a dinosaur-like big serpent.

Rather its face is totally like that of a dinosaur. It ain't on a damn level of a snake.

Behind me is Elk sitting down on the floor, after losing her leg strength.

Looks like, she is very scared after seeing this snake.

She is not only shedding tears, but also peeing that is not suitable for her age.

She is sitting there so it's hard to understand her expression.

Anyhow, I carry her to the opposite wall and put her down.

And now, I am standing in between Elk and the dinosaur-like snake to protect her.

In this situation where a heroin is in a desperate situation behind me, I, am thinking about something.

(……What shall I do about this atmosphere……)

Awkward.

Really REALLY awkward.

What is awkward? Well it's obvious.

After seeing a girl peeing in front of your eyes, that-, err-, as an opposite gender what should I say to her……

No, well, it's only natural in this situation without thinking about the age, right?

I don't mind it at all though?

I'm not concerned about it,

but right now Elk's heart might be a bit complicated because she showed such a scene to a person of the opposite gender.

How should I put it, just how will I close the sense of distance after this ends……

Oh, to hell with it! This is all your fault, baka-hebi!

No well, let's think about this after I kill this thing!

Though I'm postponing this matter, but it's not a wrong choice because I need to get over with this damn snake!

And that's how it is,

「Then, let's fight」

Maybe seeing me shaking my wrist for a little warm-up exercise, it realized that I have no intention of getting eaten silently.

And the big serpent tries to intimidate me by hissing.

Yeah, I can feel it.

That this guy is on a different level from those monkeys and bear-like monster.

And right after,

『–GuyAAAaaAAAA!!!』(Snake)

「oOo!」(The going-with-the-flow Minato)

「Kyaaaa!?」(The not-going-with-the-flow Elk)

It yells in a very loud voice, maybe it is echoing in the whole dungeon by now.

And reflexively, I and Elk both shout as if surprised.

Leaving that aside, the snakes can't roar or yell or whatever after all their vocal organs don't develop, right?

Whatever. This guy is a dinosaur-like thing.

While thinking as such, I move to the place where Elk won't be hurt even if it comes flying at me. And seeing me moving it starts to put power in it's body. Oh, finally coming?

—-Immediately after,

He unleashes his mouth aiming at me in a speed unthinkable due to his large body.

「Whoa, oops!」

I dodge his very fast attack with a side-step and drive a punch in the side of it's face.

The gauntlet clashes with the scales and makes a *gakiin* sound which is very offensive to the ears.

But, this damn thing is really hard.

As an experiment, I drove the punch with the power which can even smash the bones of the 'Little Beast' from before, but just as expected this guy didn't even flinch.

Immediately, he attacks at me by changing his course and is snarling at me. I somehow dodge it.

However, as if it learned or has wild instincts, the serpent, wraps his body to the extreme and shoots itself towards me. Ah, not good, this will hit me.

The speed might not be what I can not dodge, but still I choose to defend.

It's not a bad thing to know the power of your opponent.

I cross my hands in front of face and prepare to for the impact, immediately following, the log-like body hits vigorously.

「Dowaaa!?」

My body jumped and without being able to bear the impact……blows towards the back.

「Minato!?」

「—Whoops! I'm fine. Its all right!」

「Imposible!?」

I got blown……but I still reply casually while flying in the air.

I twist my body in air and grab the floor firmly like a cat for slowing down. I somehow, cut off the momentum before hitting the wall.

At the same time, I inspect my body for any damages from the current attack.

……*phew* No injuries. No problem in movement too.

If it's this level of attack, I'll be fine even after getting a direct hit.

When I stand up and turn to the big serpent, it was already preparing to launch itself towards me.

It's speed is a lot more than before, most probably more powerful too.

Oh well, the fangs do scare me, I'll evade this time.

Once again, the side-step appears.

……Ah, no, this is different? Right now I didn't mean it as a joke, it is just by reflex……I'm saying the truth. Please believe me! I'm not a KY to that extent(Would like belive)!

Right now it was just a word magic, or not, it was just an unfortunate coincidence!

Shit, this ain't the time to think about this!

Suddenly, the big serpent wraps his body to the extreme and once again aims at me and shoots itself in a ridiculously fast speed. Whoa, pretty fast.

Did it get serious because it couldn't eat me……Nh?

I realize one strange thing.

(……What is this smell?)

From inside the mouth of the snake an irritating smell of something decayed along with the putrid smell of the corpses he might have eaten reaches my nose.

And a burbling sound also comes from inside the mouth.

……Something is coming. No it's not body but something else.

And just like I thought, the snake which looked like it'll come attacking me like before decelerates and opens it's mouth wide.

The moment I see something of yellow-green color, I jump to the side and dodge it.

And one second later, the place I was just standing at, collides with the unknown liquid spit by the snake -most probably a venom or digestive liquid of some sort-.

The sturdy floor of the labyrinth starts melting while making sounds. So it is acid.

It is still not able to completely melt the floor, but yeah, it's pretty powerful. It will easily melt the metals.

What is it going to do by dissolving me if it wants to eat me later. Well whatever, it's not my job to think that.

And it looks like this acid is volatile because it starts evaporating by raising a yellow-green colored smoke.

It's evaporating speed is definitely faster than the evaporating speed of sterilization alcohol. In some minutes, most of the liquid of I don't know how many litres, evaporated.

The moment, the smell of the evaporated liquid reaches my nose, I suddenly realize.

Immediately,

I take off the scarf around my neck and throw it towards Elk.

「Elk cover your mouth with it. Don't inhale the gas」

「Eh? G-gas?」

「Yeah, the gas created by the evaporation of the acid, judging by the smell, most likely, it is a type of paralyzing poison. It is pretty powerful and a normal human won't move for some minutes if inhaled. I think」

I remember it, because there was one guy in the forest which used the same thing. Though, it's acid didn't evaporate to form gas.

I see so the main reason for this acid is for the opponent to evade and let down his guard and then inhale the gas.

"I-I am thankful for that, but are you alright!? The meaning you said 'judging by the smell' means you are inhaling it from before……"

「Yeah, its alright. A poison of this level won't work on me.」

「Won't work……?」

Before our talk was over, the snake showed some movements.

This time it didn't came leaping at me but is……groaning while staying in it's place.

But the smell of the same acid from before reached my nose. Maybe it intends to paralyse me or inflict damage with the help of acid.

Well, I don't even need to see the same attack again, the moment I thought that,

the same yellow-green color starts coming out of the snake along with the bloodlust which was not present just before.

It's different from the one from before.

I hesitated for a moment whether should I attack it or not.

But, the big serpent seeing my actions as a good opportunity, opened his mouth wide.

At that moment, a yellow-green colored steam spewed out from the inside the of the serpent's mouth like a spay, no, like how a dragon breathes fire -not like I have seen it- and the steam covers my whole body.

☆☆☆

「Minatoo—!?」

Elk becomes depressed for various unidentified reason after seeing the guy protecting her getting engulfed inside the steam of acid and paralysing poison.

Elk raises a sorrowful voice by seeing the scene.

On the other hand, the snake yelled a victory roar as if he won with his deadly breath.

And a bit later it peeks inside the poison mist, for seeing the pitiable prey of his dying.

……But,

「Sorry to say it out loud……but this won't work on me!」

I don't know whether my voice reached the ears of the snake.

but, still I'm sure that this guy in front of my eyes has bewilderment instilled inside it's eyes. Monster's expressions (?) are quite easy to read.

Elk also is astonished, her voice too is not coming out.

I'm a little happy that her face has an expression which is saying 'relief' and not only fright.

But well, it's only natural to be surprised. After all, I'm alive and pimpin' inside a dense fog of acid and poison.

While emitting an aura-like thing of bluish-white color.

Maybe they will see the true form of the aura, which is a mixture of 'Steam' and 'Light' if they see closely.

The light and steam is a defensive membrane made from magic for protecting myself from the dense fog of acid.

In the first place, an acid which can just melt stone and steel can't even melt one hair on my body which is enhanced by 『Elemental Blood』 and if inhaled at most it will make me cough for a bit.

But the extent of 『Enhancement』 is only till there.

It can't block the stinking smell which will stick to my clothes and skin and hair.

And I seriously hate the smell.

Just because my nose is better than others, I always have to be careful for these things.

Well then, leaving this talk aside,

From what I have concluded after fighting after this snake, it looks like it's power is near or close to that of those demons in the forest.

Now it's the time to use 'this' without reservations.

I cancel the defensive membrane and face the snake.

So then, let's start the work of the day!

「I'm getting serious from now on… hebi-yarou」

I don't know if he understood my words.

But he must have surely understood that I'm making fun of him. And the big serpent attacks just like before by throwing its body towards me.

It won't hurt me, but I ain't got any obligation to get hit by him. I let the attack come near me to the extreme, then I dodge it by shifting sideways.

While dodging, I fill up my fist with magic.

A different magical power from before.

My clenched fist releases a green light and air starts making a vortex around it.

「Take……this!!」

SFX: *Dogoo* (Boom)

I punch it's flank with power, different from before.

The moment, my fist strikes it, it starts creating a windstorm.

With that one punch, the log-like body flies many metres back.

The big serpent is pushed back as it raises an irritating cry.

The place my punch hit has cracks in its scales and are breaking down.

Blood is also falling down from the cracks. Looks like magic power has worked. With this much power, it does take damage.

For some time, it looked like the snake is looking at me blankly as if saying it didn't understand what just happened.

Well, it does has a large body, so it might be the first time it has experienced the feeling of 'blowing by

punch'.

……But, I've got no obligation to wait for him to come back to earth.

I jump at it while my leg is releasing green color and my right hand is releasing red color.

The moment I kick the ground, I get on the whirlwind and accelerate. I close the distance between us in some seconds.

「One more time!!!」

This time it didn't get blown, but……the place my punch hits an explosion occurs with tremendous explosive power.

But, it has resistance to heat and all, so it did not do the damage that I expected.

it just burned some scales of it. Damn, fire is not good!

Seeing that, the snake didn't seem much astonished but had anger of getting blown before.

It attacks me by leaping and wriggling its body or with his tail. Anyhow, it is rampaging in anger. It keeps attacking me fiercely like waves after waves.

It's body is long and thick, and it can move fast, so it is pretty troublesome.

Because it is attacking in anger, it's body or tail hits the walls and floor which results in pebble or big rocks to fly at me.

「Argh, you're so fucking annoying!!」

I'm avoiding all the attacks, but yeah its troublesome, so let's just stop that guy.

I fill magic in my right hand, this time it emits yellow light.

I slip through the attacks of snake and close my distance. And then, attack it with the heel of my palm.

Then,

SFX:—*Bashiin*

SFX:—*Pachiliiilii*

The insides of the cave became bright for a moment along with the stinging sound and the sound of something breaking.

At the the same time, the body of the big serpent stiffens.

It's body is convulsing and is stiffened as if it has been hit by lightning.

……In truth, it did take lightning, or rather electric current.

Electricity is still coming out from the heel of my palm. That dinosaur-like snake got hit by my attack and the electricity.

Ah, before that, I need to confirm something.

「Oi! Elk?」

「Eh!?」

I call out to Elk who didn't get any role time for some time and is still sitting.

Maybe she was dumbfounded by the attack. Her body started shivering after I call her name.

「Fragments didn't reach you? Are you alright?」

「Eh? Y-yeah, I'm alright……Minato, is that magic?」

「Nh? Uh, Yeah, I'll tell you later, so no inquisition for now」

I will tell Elk later, but this the way I fight normally.

And it's name is the awesome『Magic Arts』.

This is one of the main fighting magic my mom taught me along with『Elemental Blood』.

I not only enhance my physical strength or my agility. I change the 'nature' of the magic inside my body and thanks to that I'm able to bring out such powerful attacks.

For example in the case of punch. If I fill it up with fire magic then it will turn into a burning/exploding punch.

If I fill it up with wind magic, then it will turn into a punch which can increase the power of my punch along with creating a windstorm for blowing the opponent really far.

If I put wind magic in my leg, then I can accelerate with it's propulsive power and can protect my body if I cover my body with water magic.

And during the training with mom, I found out that I have talent in all the 8 categories of magic in this world like『Fire』,『Water』,『Wind』,『Earth』,『Ice』,

『Lightning』,『Light』and『Darkness』. And just like that, I practices them to the extremes and enhanced my Taijutsu.

Till now all opponents were weak so I didn't had any need to use this and so it didn't made it's debut, but this is my fighting style. While I was in the forest, I had a lot more chances to use this.

By the way, I electrified my hand with the『Lightning』magic and attacked the body of the snake.

So I attacked it with lightning and my powerful punch, which caused the snake's muscles to strain and stop its movements.

Well then leaving all this talk once again aside,

I need to kill it before anything unexpected happens.

It is the first demon with stout body and is of different variety that I've fought, so i got elated and played

with it……but now that I'm back to earth, I need to finish this.

I don't want Elk to get hurt just because I am playing with it.

Now that I know Elk is fine, I return my line of sight to the big serpent.

When I do so, the snake is glaring at me with hostility and vigilance.

It must have realised that I'm different from other preys. In various meanings.

But from its investigation. It looks like it didn't tell the snake to hesitate even a bit.

The big serpent re-activates his attacking. It attacks like an idiot which only knows one way of attack.

This time I will……not dodge.

It's large mouth opened wide approaches me.

I let the it come close to me and at the last moment……drive a kick in the lower part of it's mouth.

I attack just like before, by filling it up with magic power. The body of snake shakes like sea waves.

As a result, the head of big serpent slips past me.

Moreover, by getting a strong blow near it's chin, it's body stiffened for a bit.

But then, I'm not expecting it to give cerebral concussion. There is no chance it will.

In that time while it's stiffened, I quickly slip near it's throat and lower my hips to stand firmly.

At the same moment, my right hand near my hips starts releasing a kind yet powerful looking orange color.

The magic I'm using is different from the ones i used before. This time it is……

『Earth』.

This is the most suitable magic for increasing the 'horsepower'.

And that magic is gradually being filled up in my right hand fist.

「Haaaaaaa……!!」

While sighing I fill up the energy.

In this way, by sighing I can increase my concentration which is impossible for any idiot.

And there is a need to give the techniques a name because it is also needed for the same reason I am sighing and as such I was taught by mom.

Before I knew it, the gentle yet powerful orange light started glowing in my surroundings with my fist as the center.

The light is gradually getting stronger.

And even before the snake twists its body for attacking me, I release my strongest attack today.

『Megaton……Punch!!!』

I firm my feet and put my weight in the fist and drive it near the place where the snake's medulla oblongata might be present.

At the moment of impact, a loud sound rivalling the cry of snake reaches my ear. It is as if a 10 ton truck collided it.

My one attack, smashes all the scales of the snake, breaks the muscles, the inner bones are pulverized and it's spinal cord is torn in pieces.

I felt that, err, lively feeling through my fists.

It's the feeling of the big-serpent dying.

The body of the already dead snake felt the impact of the attack a second later and flies into the air.

It's 20 m body heroically flies and strikes the opposite side wall of this room, making a loud noise.

It's body convulses for some seconds and stops moving.

In a sense fast and in a sense dramatically, the king of the『Labyrinth 』welcomed it's death.

I remain on guard with my fist pushed forward. I stay vigilant whether the snake will move again or not.

After I confirm the snake died, I lower my guard.

「Fuu–……Well, something like this」

Yeah, It was a worthwhile battle both for experience and information.

Though it might be due selfishness, but I got a good experience to keep on working as an adventurer. Thank you very much big-serpent-san for letting me get experience.

Now then, all that is left is……

「So Elk, shall we return?」

「Eh? Ah, Y-yeah……」

I bring Elk back to Earth who was in space just till now.

Now there is no reason to remain in this dungeon anymore. Let's just take the spoils and leave here.

Chapter 15 – Her Troubles Part 1

“Err……you k-killed this……?”

“Ah Yes. It seemed like an undiscovered demon so I brought the whole corpse with me. I heard that if I submit it to the guild, I can get rewards.”

“Eh? Ah, Yes, that is true……”

“I’m very sorry for troubling you to come here. Bringing this in the city will obviously cause a great ruckus.”

“No, I don’t mind it……”

Well, you see,

If you’re wondering what is happening, in simple words……Riin-san, who was dispatched by Guild after getting a request and me are talking in the vicinity of the entrance to『Labyrinth of Naga』.

Elk is also here, but she is behind me completely mute.

Surrounding us are many curious onlookers shouting ‘What is it’.

The Guild has declared ‘Don’t come near it’ and affixed a restriction line. So it is only natural that they are all facing towards us from a certain distance……

The thing we brought is……the corpse of the『Big Serpent』which was running wild just a while ago.

☆☆☆

After killing the『Big Serpent』(TN: 『大蛇』) which we encountered out of pure coincidence, we both left the dungeon and thought about foolish things like『Big Serpent』(TN: “Daija”『だいじゃ』) can be called as『Big Serpent』(TN: “Orochi”『おろち』)

Anyhow, we both didn’t wanted to remain inside anymore, so we rushed towards the city at full speed.

And, it’s a good opportunity, so the corpse of Big Serpent also came with us.

But seriously it would be shit to drag and carry a corpse of Big Serpent which is more than 20 metres long and 1 metre thick.

And so we came up with a plan.

Inside my『Backpack』a jet-black pole was stored.

At a glance, it would seem like a normal pole but this is a magic item with many gimmicks inserted in it and is unbelievably strong and flexible.

I got it when I completed the ridiculous test sponsored by mom. Its one of many things she gave me at that time saying it was a congratulatory gift.

1 of the gimmick is that it can extend and retract to some extent, it’s just like the pole of some monkey aiming for the seat of heavenly kings.

It has other gimmicks, but that is a story for another time.

And so I extended the pole and wrapped the corpse of Big Serpent and then made it compact (somewhat), that's how I brought it out.

It's weight is still many tonnes but for my enhanced body it's is an easy task.

And so we both aimed for the exit while carrying the corpse in a way that it won't get stuck in the corridors of labyrinth.

As we reached the exit, the eyes of steadily populating adventurers did made me feel a bit anxious.

It only natural. After all, I walked around while carrying the corpse of an not-yet-known big serpent. It will surprise anyone, it's eyeballing.

It didn't feel good, so I tried to ignore them to my utmost ability as if I gave up on giving an explanation.

And like that we somehow left the dungeon but it was obvious from the already populated curious onlookers that if this thing got into town what it would become then.

So I rushed to the nearest local police station (Don't know it's official name) of the guild.

If a dungeon is of low-level then places like this are near them for administrative purposes.

The staff members of the local police station sprang up after seeing this on my shoulders. Well anyhow, I explained the story and requested for cart/wagon-like thing for transportation.

In this way, it would cause less ruckus than seeing one person carrying this on a shoulder.

It's quite common for transporting raw materials of demons using cart/wagon(s).

……Flashback ends. Back to the beginning(TN: Present).

And the person who is dispatched is Riin-san who helped with the adventurer registration.

Seeing her well-ordered face (with glasses) showing various expressions like surprise, is actually pretty interesting.

"……Excuse me. I got distracted, sorry."

"Ah, No, I don't mind……"

"A-Anyhow, thank you for your hard work, Minato-sama. As per requested, we will carry the corpse of this demon to guild."

When Riin-san instructed saying 'Please take it' then the fellow guild members who came with her started putting the corpse of big serpent in the cart/wagon.

Well, it's weight is no joke so it took them some struggle. The cart/wagon is now over-full.

Around this time Elk makes a complete comeback.

Until now she was freaking out and trembling but now she showed a relief expression after seeing the

corpse of the big serpent being disposed of.

“Ah, Elk, you alright now?”

“Y-Yeah, I’m fine, probably……. Anyhow I want to sleep today as fast as possible.”

“Well it was one troublesome day. Riin-san what shall we do after this?”

“I want you both to return to guild and tell the story in more detail is what I would like to say, but……if you’re tired then I won’t force you.”

As one would expect, they will have to hear from us about the subjugated unknown monster, but it’ll fine to report to guild either tomorrow or day after tomorrow.

She even said ‘You’re pretty tired, go sleep today’

Well, I’m not that much tired, but Elk is really giving of the feeling that she is on her limit both mentally and physically.

“Ah, can I ask you something?”

Suddenly, Elk who started returning turned around and asked Riin-san.

“Err……this might be a vulgar thing to ask, but will we get money for this monster?”

“You’re right. This is an unknown monster found in『Labyrinth of Naga』and is in complete form. Therefore, after the inquiry tomorrow we will investigate a bit and according to that will we give the rewards.”

“When will be the reward paid to us?”

“Not only raw materials and body confirmation but the information is also required……at fast it will be paid day after tomorrow or else during the next week. Is there any problem?”

“No, not really……Thank you”

Elk starts walking again after answering her,

……? Just what is was it right now?

Riin-san also thought something but soon returned to her work without thinking much.

Well then, I’ll also return back to Inn.

Riin-san asked us to drop us off at inn, but I rejected.

If we return back with that thing, it will cause quite a ruckus.

And so Elk and I decided decided to return back home by walking on the street where monsters rarely appear.

Well my work is to escort Elk who is not in her normal condition.

☆☆☆

Maken no Daydreamer Chapter 15 Part 2

"……Um, Minato?"

"Nh?"

"……You……No, nothing"

"What happened?"

From before a somewhat inquisitive gaze is being sent to me from Elk. Just why might it be.

No, well, it's only natural in one way. I think I already know the reason.

From Elk and Riin-san's expressions, it's obvious that this big serpent is more powerful than the other demons in the labyrinth. Well, it's natural after all this thing was preying on other demons inside.

Well I did kill this thing bare-handed, so it's only natural for her to stare at me like that.

It will be alright for her to give me stares of fear or she should stay vigilant, after all, a weak frail child like me killed something like this.

Even though she is just walking with me without asking anything -though she is staring at me-.

I don't know whether she is paying attention to me or she has some other intention.

Well, there is no help thinking about it, while I thought that, Elk once again opens her mouth.

"Minato, can I ask you something?"

"? What happened?"

"I'm sorry for asking at this time but……I have a request. It's about the reward which will come with the information and corpse of that big serpent……you see……?"

"? Yeah, it will be hassle for me so I'm thinking of splitting it in equal half……"

"I see, equal halves……Haaaaa!?"

Wow, that surprised me!

Elk suddenly shouts which breaks her quiet and docile atmosphere which was lingering on her till now. W-Why!?

And after passing the condition of 'wanting to speak but can't'.

"Y……Just what are you saying, huh!? Eh, what……the reward of that snake in equal halves!?"

"Eh? well, we are getting it as a team……"

"No, even so, aren't you the one who killed it 100%! What are you thinking!? Isn't this the time when you should've taken the whole rewards! Even I thought about it yesterday, I didn't help you in any way!? Idiot!? Are you an idiot!? Aren't you an idiot!?"

Elk in panicking. She is bad mouthing me with all her heart in her words. Calm down.

No, well she is saying the truth, but……don't just call me idiot three times repeatedly.

It would had been a different thing if I went alone inside the labyrinth, but……Elk was with me there, though she was sitting the whole time.

We fought like a team (?), so we should split the reward equally. Thinking like this is instilled in my blood, because of the hunting game I used to play.

Well, it is me who killed it 100%, but she won't mind taking loan from me right……

Just, even though I think like that, there is one thing I'm concerned about.

"Err……You need money, right? Then wouldn't it this way be more convenient for you?"

"……!!"

And,

For some reason, Elk starts trembling. What happened? You fine?

"……Why……"

"?"

"Why are you so kind……!! Towards a girl like me who always thinks and talks about money and is greedy……"

No, I'm not actually kind, bluntly speaking, I hate thinking about splitting profits. Even if I get all the money, I don't have any way of spending it at all. Well, I don't know about the future, though.

And, I feel hesitation for no reason while taking a large amount of money even though I know that Elk is in need for money right now.

After all this she can't just be some stranger to me, so won't it be good to give the money to her, such a thought flashed through my mind.

How should I say it, but the feeling, that she is desperate, is somehow being transmitted to me.

And that Elk, is for some reason, trembling and feeling anxious.

She doesn't has any problem with me giving her money, but it seems like it is hard to accept it. And is clenching her fist very tightly as if it is a claw of demon.

"……You are"

"Nh?"

"Are you always like this to anyone? Indiscriminately kind……I'll say this in advance, though kind and honest people may seem nice and good but they won't live a good life because of that. In this world, only the strong people live and the honest people are fools."

Those words spill out from Elk's mouth as if she is squeezing out those words.

And it seems like this time she spoke her true feelings……no doubt about it.

Within the eyes she is looking me at, are various emotions present.

Her eyes contain sadness, envy and anger. I haven't seen eyes like these within my whole previous life.

But the feeling that she is cornered and is helpless is also transmitted to me.

I don't know the reason for her to be cornered, I'm an outsider, so I won't touch that matter.

Err, she said, am I like that to everyone, right?

"No, that can't be possible. I myself think I am pretty egoistic and a dry humoured person? I even assertively ignore problems that have no relation to me."

"Where is that!? Aren't I that another person with no relation to you and has problems to deal with! Why are caring so much about me, when you just met me only yesterday……"

"Yeah, well, you're right. I would say then it must be because Elk is desperately working hard"

"……Desperately……?"

"Yeah. Well, Elk, you are more or less full of vigor, you're kind, you maintain everything and one thing or another you take good care of anyone. Putting aside your true intentions, but you're earnestly to me like a friend. Though, I don't know much about the world, but people like you are rare, right?"

That's why I can't leave her alone, or rather I just want to help her for some reason.

Well, the factor that she is the first person I met after leaving home might also be important.

"……Where is it. You really don't understand anything. Earnest and diligent, those are things completely far from me……"

"After all"

I cut off her words with my sentence,

"You regret on the things you have done. You regret, reflect on it, and still be diligent is something most people can't do, aren't I right?"

The moment I said it,

Elk's face color starts changing.

Her expression has fear, astonishment, anxiety etc mixed in.

She timidly and slowly faces me,

"……You already knew?"

"……What?"

Though this might be cruel, I still reply her with a question.

It's easy to mention it right now.

But she is right now trembling and unstable. So should I finish the matter myself, or should I leave it for the flow.

Most likely, if I leave it on the flow……then she would be willing to accept whatever the outcome will be.

Either she becomes a fool or get's caught by law.

But, if she has that much resolve……then she should decide her life by herself, or so I think.

That's why I will leave it to her.

I don't what result will it leave, but I will try to believe in her 'Desperation'.

Though it's only an intuition, but I think that she is diligent and always has her heart prepared for anything.

That's why she is suffering from her crimes, her thinking and surrounding environment too. She still has conscience for suffering and resolve for not losing her way.

Because I felt it, that's why I'm not paying any heed to her 'You already knew' and facing Elk feigning ignorance.

If it's her, then she will definitely……

……No, lets not think about it.

Even if I predict it, nothing is going to change.

"……Minato"

"Nh?"

"……Sorry"

Eventually, without talking after that short conversation, we both returned to the inn.

Though I noticed a flash of light in Elk's eyes, but let's once again feign ignorance.

☆☆☆

"Minato-san is it true that you killed an amazing demon!!?"

"……You got good ears……"

The moment I return to inn, the daughter of innkeeper……Tanya-chan said to me these words.

Currently, I am captured by this poster girl whose eyes are sparkling.

Well, it's not unreasonable.

If a demon like that comes out of that labyrinth, it will become rumours.

And the adventurers, generally all have a loose tongue which runs anywhere.

No, what I said is wrong. To restate it, I would rather say that the transmission of information is fast.

That's why even if the talk is on the level of rumour but the impact it has is big then the transmission is also really fast.

It's only a matter of time that people know about us bringing corpse and about the unknown demon in『Labyrinth of Naga』……no, it's even faster than 'a matter of time'

After all, many saw us bringing its body tied on a pole and with me shouldering it till the time guild staff came and took it back.

Furthermore, it's strange to say it myself, but my appearance is quite conspicuous.

I had heard it from mom and felt it while walking through town too, that black-haired and black-eyed people are really rare in this world.

Blonde or brown hair; People with hair color like that are more common. There are also many variants of eyes like blue, red, gray, green et cetera.

And even my attire is;

My clothes, equipments, scarf too all is jet-black. Ah by the way even my backpack is black. And in clothes some purple-colored lines are inserted.

Though I'm repeating it, but my eyes and hair are also both black.

It's only natural that I will stand out. It's only natural that I will leave some sort of impression.

In that case, it's very VERY natural for a rumour like『A man in black killed a great demon in the『Labyrinth』』to spread in the city people and reach Tanya-chan.

Most likely, it started from those adventurer who returned to city after seeing the serpent.

Though I know that……but I never thought, it will be this fast.

It's only near 2 hours since we left the『Labyrinth』and still the rumours have reached Tanya-chan who rarely leaves the inn.

"No, well it is still on the level of rumours? But from that reaction, it seems like it is the truth?"

"Yeah, well, I even have some parts of it tucked up."

"Woo~w! I had heard that Minato-san is a rookie. What if I am talking to the future hero-sama? Kyaa♪"

This girl getting excited by herself.

However, when she says as such, I can feel many eyes looking at me.

From where? From all over the place.

From the time I was walking through the town……till the time I entered the inn, I am feeling at least 1 or 2

people looking at me.

Though from the feeling that is coming from gazes……it seems like the persons are adventurers……. Are they appraising me or what?

“I heard the rumour of the person being a『Man in black』, so not many would have thought that Onii-san is the person, but I am always seeing that appearance of Onii-san~. Your clothes, eyes, hair, backpack, everything is completely black.”

“Haha……well it will definitely become something like『What if it’s him』.”

I see. So the reason Tanya-chan knew it’s me is because of two reasons:

The speed of rumours
my appearance
Even though, it’s good that we came faster than the cart/wagon carrying the

『Snake』. So it was worth rushing our way back.

If we reached here when the corpse of that『Big Serpent』had arrived, I’m damn sure it would’ve been more troublesome……

And if we reached after the corpse had come here, then it would’ve been damned even more troublesome.

However, even that cart/wagon will cross through the main street after some minutes.

It will be good to remain silent and calm today and return to room……Even Elk is tired.

……If you’re talking about tired people,

(By the way, Minato-san)

(What, Tanya-chan?)

(What happened to Onee-sa……Elk-san? She is depressed more than she ever had been……even I can’t get in the mood to tease her.)

Oh, she actually can read the atmosphere.

She won’t call her『Onee-sama』right now. I thought she was an oblivious person, but looks like she can also be serious, though in the place where the person in talk can’t see.

(Ah, Yeah, just leave her be. She is tired for various reasons)

(Well she is an adventurer, she must have a lot going on. Well, today I will act diligently. Minato-san, though she is inexperienced, please take care of Elk-san)

She said something to that is completely unneeded.

……I can’t do anything about her. It’s her own problem.

She probably joked with me for softening the atmosphere. Tanya-chan sends a worrying gaze.

She is sending it towards the second floor while,

she starts serving other people,

and is giving me a stare filled with『Hostility』

……Unexpectedly, the situation just leaps ignoring many steps.

Chapter 16 – Determination and Ridicule and Tears

It was 3 months ago when Elk Caucus first met them.

Beginning of things was because of a weapon Elk found in a weapon shop she passed by, due to pure luck.

For some reason, Elk decided to buy that weapon, but the price of the weapon which was decorated as a showcase was not something any novice adventurer get take out of their pockets.

There was someone who supported Elk's shoulders at the time she was in a frantic to buy the weapon.

……*Thinking it now,it was completely obvious.*

Why didn't I think it was really unnatural, Elk though as such within the past 3 months.

That man introduced himself as someone affiliated with the organization which supported novice adventurers who have promising futures.

Even the shopkeeper introduced him, saying he was a man you put trust in.

Furthermore, the organization in which the man was affiliated, was even a major dealer in this『Volka』, this alone let Elk trust him.

Elk took the man's word seriously and finally took a loan.

……The place she took the money from was the so-called『Illegal Loan』and the shopkeeper who guaranteed the trust was also an accomplice of them. It was only the following week that Elk noticed the truth, when a bill of many folds more amount than the principal reached the inn.

The most troublesome thing was that the contract was virtually completed without any problems.

The problem was just personal problems, but no problems legally.

If there was no legal problem, then army and guards like police organizations won't also move.

Was there no illegal point in the contract or was there any gaps in the contract.

Elk thinking that, desperately read the contract many times -She skimmed reading the contract 1 time- to find any gaps in it regarding money problems.

A month and a little had passed, Elk who was diligent and had higher learning ability too, went to a specialist who deals with such matters.

But, the conclusion derived after going there was『Nothing can be done』.The heartless words.

Different from Minato's previous life, in this world there was no interest rate set on the illegal loans and so only the rate with the mutual agreement was taken as the rate.

If the signature and seal were real and legal, then there was no place to run.

Elk who understood that was puzzled.

From then till the present day, Elk was desperately trying to raise her money by going in dangerous areas, going in labyrinths and hunting demons.

However, though she tried her best to pay the interest, but there was no signs of her debt going down.

If she was unable to repay the debt, then she would either be degraded to a slave or either send to a brothel.

If that happened, then after that point, there was no freedom, but hell waiting.

Elk who understood that was cornered to the extreme, then some days before the men brought an offer to her.

That was helping in kidnapping, just like a devil's deal.

The procedure was fairly simple.

One just had to pretend as victim of something or lie down on the road to trick the person who seemed kindhearted and had money to get closer to it.

And bring that person to the place where the kidnappers were waiting for ambush.

The money gotten from the goods and belongings of the prey and after selling the prey off to slave dealers, would be split in portions and that portion, amount of money, will be deducted from her debt.

No matter what, she didn't want to drop that down as a human being and rejected the offer. But, yesterday, after seeing the large amount of money on Minato, before she even knew, she was『Guiding』Minato.

To the place where she had been informed before『We will wait here today, if you feel like it then bring us the prey, for the sake of both of us』

Most probably, Along with dozens of silver coins and the things inside the backpack along with the equipment too will be able to complete the debt, thinking that Elk's unreliable reasoning power withdrew back.

She was making excuses to herself which don't even pass as an excuse like. *If I don't do it, nothing will be solved.*

The miscalculation was that Minato was strong.

So strong that he didn't care about the kidnappers surprise attack.

And this time she tried to use Minato's power to raise money through legal means while being burdened with the feelings of guilt and self-hatred for doing illegal work and getting engulfed in greed.

She thought of telling Minato about debt, but didn't do it.

Right now she was suffering from the failure of being unable to repay the debt. The act of taking『Loan』had already become a trauma for her. In the very least, she only had evasion feeling regarding it for now.

The money she had won't be able to repay the debt due to its increasing interest rate, this was also one of the reasons.

In reality, there were 10 gold coins in Minato's backpack which might be able to help reduce the debt but neither did Elk knew of their existence nor she would have asked even if she knew.

And so, she tried the method in which she could also help.

But, in this process after being in contact with Minato's child-like honesty and kindness, Elk felt her ugliness becoming distinct.

Even though, she wasn't calm at that time, but it was her who agreed to the contract without reading the contract agreement conditions.

It was self-destruction, nothing else.

For covering it up, she involved other people, used the good intentions, trampled the trust underfoot and in the end she hated herself for again taking the money.

And she hated herself even more after being saved by Minato from the big serpent inside the『Labyrinth』

The moment, she was gazing at her ugly self in the reflection of window, a letter reached her.

☆☆☆

"Hey, just what did you say?"

"I refuse. I said that. There is no way you didn't hear it?"

At dusk.

The time was at the borderline and it felt like after an hour or two the sun will also go down.

The place was, wastelands on the outskirts of the city.

Elk had by herself come to the place which was written in the letter she got before.

From the many men surrounding Elk with bad countenance, one man……the man who warned her on yesterday's night spoke while furrowing his brows.

"You read the letter, right?"

"I wouldn't come here if I didn't read it"

"I see, then you also understand it, right? That you don't have any other option left."

"……"

The contents of the letter were something like this.

It was about those members who attacked Minato yesterday's noon.

Though there were no deaths, but they had to give a lot of treatment fees and suffered financial losses.

Though not completely, but Elk was also responsible for that, and so she had to take the burden of some amount of that money. It was added to her debt.

Now that there was no way to clear the debt using legal ways, only one method was left.

The sharp eared men, had already heard about an『Adventurer in Black』killing the big serpent and judged it was Minato.

Including the fact that Minato would be rewarded enormous amount of money as reward for killing it.

Then seeing the right time after he got reward, attack him and seize all the equipments and luggage everything. The plan also included to sell him as he was a rare person with black hair and black eyes.

If it went easily, about 60% of her debt would be repaid. And if the prices of equipments and all were high then she would be able to repay more than that.

However, Elk's response was,

"Don't make me say it again and again. I'm saying I reject that offer."

"……Bitch, do you understand the meaning of your words?"

That man was somewhat more rational than others, but it was clear from his speech that his mood was getting foul.

He scowled at Elk, in his eyes was unconcealable irritation.

It was obvious that behind the words that sounded like warning had threat included.

After all, if Elk was unable to repay the debt before the deadline which was approaching, she would either be sold off to slave dealers or brothel. To a woman, there was nothing else than hell after that point.

Even more, the reward Minato would get would be more than the money they would get by selling off Elk.

Hence, they were trying to persuade Elk by intimidating her with fear. For gaining more profits.

……Still, her reply didn't change.

"I know what I'm saying. You will at most sell me to some slave dealer or brothel? I won't resist it after all this time."

"……What did you say?"

"I'm saying, do what you want to your heart's desire. But, now this talk is over, don't even try to lay hands on that idiot……Minato"

She herself, didn't think that this would stop them.

Just, she wanted to something good at the last moment so that she won't regret……and would be able to show her face straightly to the boy who saved her.

Of course, she knew that Minato wouldn't like it and she herself didn't want to jump in hell by her own will.

She just felt that if she try to live a disgraceful life, then she would stop being herself.

Choosing to live a lowly disgraceful life was too heavy a choice for her after being in contact with Minato's kindness.

If she tried to return, it was a dirty path. If she didn't return it would be either slave or prostitute.

Either return to hell or go to hell. both sides were hell for her.

In that case, while her mind was cooling down……she made decision.

"If I'm going to hell anyway, then it's more good to go to hell by my own will while carrying all the sins. There would be not even one person who would feel sorry for me."

"……You're an idiot. You going to ruin your life by rejecting the offer in front of you? Rethink about it, even by saying good things, it won't give prof……"

"You're right, nobody will gain profit, but neither will anyone suffer loss."

"You can't complain about anything in hell, still going with your choice?"

"Bake me, boil me, have fun. ……It is a befitting end for garbage like me. Even if you people are garbage like me, but I won't let you get any profit."

"Bitch……"

The surrounding men scowled at Elk, who was speaking in a masochism way, with eyes filled with hatred.

Right now from their standpoints it was, Elk who was rejecting their offer for some hypocrite feelings.

However, in front of those stares, Elk showed a refreshed face giving off the feeling that what she had done was only natural.

Most probably, even if they attacked her or tore her clothes apart and be violent she won't resist at all. But she definitely won't regret, neither make any complaints.

The leader man who was speaking till before after knowing Elk had no intention of withdrawing, opened his mouth,

"……I got it, I'll give you what you want you bitch. I will sell you to the place which gives more profit. I won't hear any complaints from you now."

Even after hearing the words similar to death sentence, Elk's expression didn't change.

On the contrary, she faintly smiled.

As if saying, that she was finally going to be free of guilt.

It was the face of Martyr being dragged by scaffold.

However,

But her heroic determination was short-lived and would be trampled underfoot.

“We will take care of that Minato brat, after we take care of you.”

“……!?”

Elk made a surprised face after she understood the meaning of the words.

In front of her, was the leader man who had the vulgarest smile of the day fixed on his face.

“What? Did you think he would be saved if you sacrificed yourself?”

“You didn’t say it!? He is not in any way involved in my debts! Why……Just why are you people laying your hands on him even after I say that I’m going to take all responsibility……”

“You really are an idiot. We are only taking that brat on our own accord, it has no relation to you. We are『Moneylender』and『Slave dealer』and those others are『Kidnappers』. They do their work. You never know which person they will attack and when, right?”

On those words, the surrounding men also laughed.

While making a fool of Elk who showed her useless determination and feelings.

The people from which Elk took money were without a doubt, these men, who were affiliated with the famous major merchant’s association this city.

That association itself was regarded as a good and legal one, with no relation to illegal things. ……They do deal with slaves and many other commodities, but it was in the regions of law.

The the preparators, the『Kidnappers』were only an outlaw group. They were evil people who would get death sentence the moment they were captured.

They were only related to the dark side of association, in front they both were completely unrelated.

This was the way『To make money without any problems』and therefore both parties were making use of each other nothing more.Therefore, they could attack the association anytime.

It was only the truth. One cannot expect outlaws to have morals or anything like that.

Realizing that, Elk clenched her fists in anger and started trembling. She was angry towards herself that she couldn’t see their true intentions and her face was getting red from anger.

“Do yo get it now, Elk? You foolish woman, it still ends like this. Honest people are seen as fool……it would’ve been better if you choose the easier way, right? Ah, it’s already too late?”

“You people……!!”

Ironically, the words she had said in the noon were turning in reality.

While feeling that in the corner of her mind, her whole mind was already under control of fury and despair.

So much fury, that she didn’t realise that she was almost going to cry.

“Don’t go ahead and try to end everything while acting cool for self-satisfaction, it’s creepy. You’re just a shitty woman who can live while pushing problems on the surrounding people! That black guy is also

pitiable, if he hadn't met you, it wouldn't have turned into th……"

"Noisy! Shut up! Worst!"

"I'll say it. We are going to capture that guy with a really good plan. After all, I have people of Rank D and C, they are completely different from people from yesterday. They are right now standing on guard, they won't let anyone esc……"

At that moment,

"I see, so those people were D and C? No wonder, it was really easy"

""""!!?""""

In the wastelands with bloodthirsty atmosphere, resounded a voice with no feeling of tension.

Being surprised, the men's and Elk's line of sight changed to the place from where the voice came.

At that place,

There was a silhouette in complete back with the sunset as its background

It wasn't because of backlighting from sun, but in reality the silhouette had black clothes, scarf, gauntlets, shin guards and finally hair and eyes.

"They were looking at me from afar and it was getting irritating, so I cleaned them up? Don't be stingy and use 10 people. It would've been better if you used 100 people."

"B-bastard……!"

"Minato……?"

The child-faced boy smiled sweetly with a face and voice having no tension at all.

His line of sight falls on the girl surrounded by men who was about to cry……but actually didn't betray the boy's faith.

And

There was no one who knew that the boy was getting angered behind his smile.

Chapter 17 – The Martial Exhibition Meet at Dusk

The inn I was staying at『Bermuda』was an inn along with an adjacent bar and dining hall made. One can at anytime eat food. If you show the key for room, then you would get discount.

But, if I go at such a place in this situation -while a rumour of an『Adventurer in Black』is spreading- it would definitely get troublesome.

Well I'm doing this work for living so I need to be ready for these things……but I won't like it to deal it with it from today only.

I needed to prepare my heart, but there were also other reasons too.

And so, when I thought about something to deal with it, I decided to let Tanya-chan bring some amount of food to my room.

Originally, they don't do this sort of service, because of patterns like going to the rooms for delivering food and then remaining there.

In my case, it was due to trust.

Along with gratitude, I ordered the food while giving the tip to Tanya-chan. It was at the time I was about to……return to my room after ordering.

I saw Elk leaving the inn and was looking like she had made some sort of strong determination but was also looking like she was sad.

—-And so,

I felt a bad premonition, so I tailed Elk,

along the way, I cleaned up the people who were on the lookout around the inn.

In front of me was Elk with her eyes opened wide which seemed to spill tear at any time and many men who seemed ill-bred standing as if surrounding her.

I was hearing and seeing the talk, though not from the start, so I more or less knew about the situation.

And I was also able to guess that these guys were not so admirable to accept the sacrifice of someone and not lay hand on the other person.

I knew that due to the experience of thief subjugation I practiced with mom.

Even so, the reason I didn't do anything till now was to confirm Elk's determination.

How should I put it, while the talk was going on a feeling like ambition or something that said to not interfere was being leaked out of her.

As if it was saying to not go back down no matter what anyone said.

From her seriousness revealing eyes, it was clear that she wasn't speaking a single lie. The thieves after listening to her decision from the start showed their vulgar side.

I couldn't bear to watch it anymore, so I trespassed in their territory.

I jumped from the building, kicking the wall of building one last time I increased my distance in air.

Just like I had wanted, I landed right besides Elk.

"……Thank you for hard work, Elk. It was really troublesome, right?"

"……You……"

Seeing me in front of her, Elk was surprised and for some reason, her eyes had a sign of relief hidden.

Was she expectation the talk to go like this……no she wasn't. Because Elk completely lost her determination just some minutes before.

Then maybe she was thinking『*Sigh* This can do almost anything, eh』while seeing me in front of her eyes. *I'm grateful that you can understand it*.

But well, her mind was still in chaos.

Even before I could think about what to say to her, the leader like man whom Elk was talking to, spoke.

"Hey, you actually did come here. Really……I was thinking of snatching everything from you along with the rewards from the snake."

The man said as such in a not amusing tone. I don't know his name.

"It's you right, who beat all the kidnappers yesterday after being deceived by Elk and……the adventurer in black who killed a snake-like amazing monster today? Thanks to you we suffered great losses, what are you gonna do about it?"

Elk with a start trembled maybe because of feelings of guilt and uneasiness after she heard the words『After being deceived by Elk』. Anyhow, I patted her shoulder and calmed her down saying that I didn't mind it.

Well, I didn't like someone saying shit to me, so I replied back.

"Thank you for telling me what you know. I don't even want to sympathy you or guess your true intentions, just shut your shitty mouth and get out of here you lower-than-sewer-rat scumbags."

As if as expected, the moment I said it, irritation and bloodlust swelled up within my surroundings.

It won't overpower me but still it leaves the unpleasant feeling.

The face of Leader hadn't changed much, but a vein propped on his forehead.

"Hmph, if she is a hypocritical idiot, then you too are an idiot to follow her. Can't you see the situation you in?"

"The ugly faces that I don't want to see are lined up. Is this for making me nauseated?"

"……It wasn't good for you to say that……Oi, come out you people!"

Here it comes, the cliché historical drama villain lines saying『Come out Come out!』

From inside the shadows came out several number of people. *Just how were these many hiding?*

One-two-three…… 40 people in total, huh?

Well, I already knew about them.

Elk's face turned pale because she didn't knew about it, due to the man speaking at first as if looking down saying '*Serves you right*' I decided to calm down Elk later.

"I know you are more powerful than normal people, so I have already made preparations. ……In truth, I was going to attack you after you had taken the reward."

"Wow, you're unexpectedly prepared? They are all prepared from before."

"I had them come here because there was a possibility that, that bitch would betray. It she did such a thing, then the business is doomed, you know."

I see, so he had already anticipated Elk betraying and bringing me here to beat them all. So it looks like he has a brain.

"Don't even think about foolish things like resisting? People here are not all of them but still there are people of Rank C and D. If you try to resist then it won't just end up with small injuries."

"Geez, you have gathered quite a lot in just 1 day."

We have the『Malras Association』behind us, it's a easy job to gather outlaws. From what I have heard, it seems like you won luckily against that『Snake』, so you can't win against these many numbers.

……*I don't know what that Mal something is, but looks like these guys got some really different information from somewhere.* I understood it from the phrase he said.

Looks like the rumour is about me defeating the snake using the walls and ceiling and floor of the labyrinth which had gotten soft due to earthquakes.

I have a delicate and frail looking body(am told by everyone), just from where did that complementary rumours start from? Well, it's convenient for me, saves me the trouble.

Apart from that,

on the face of man was a really creepy and evil smile affixed as if believing he would win with the numbers.

……**Sigh*, just why are all villains like these.*

I don't want to hear his voice and don't want to see his face too anymore.

At that instant,

I sensed the magical power rising from 7 o'clock behind me -It is the sign of magic starting to activate- and threw Elk away from myself.

The moment, the bewildered Elk landed on her back,

SFX: Booom,

The sound of explosion resounded.

A fireball came flying at me from somewhere and hit me.

“Minato!?”

“……!? Oi, who was it, who fired something like that all of a sudden!”

“Isn’t a little fine. I just gave my thanks for beating my friends yesterday?”

“Dimwit! I told you we will sell him too! He has a good face too, if he got a burn or something, then the price will fall down, bastard!”

“Ah, Don’t worry about. It won’t work on me”

“”””!!?”””

Everyone present at that place froze after they heard the voice which came from the fire.

Immediately following,

A fire erupts from my body which was more powerful than the power of the fireball magic. I show myself with no injuries at all to everyone.

……If they told me that my appearance itself was abnormal, I can’t actually refute to it.

I didn’t knew what sort of magic was the current『Fire Ball（Temporary）』for, but it didn’t vanish even after exploding. So I just used my fire magic to vanish it.

Just like how I did at the time with big serpent from water and light. This time I used the fire magic and covered my body to cancel to the fire surrounding my body.

As expected, many thieves stepped back upon seeing my unhurt body, but Elk who had already seen my outrageousness in the labyrinth wasn’t that much surprised.

“……*Sigh* It was foolish of me to even worry about you……”

……on the contrary she was amazed? No, she was looking at me as if it was natural? Why?

I didn’t thought much about it at that time.

Aside from that, I finally understand now.

The leader only seems rational here. Other will most probably try to capture us as soon as we try to do something. They really are irritated a lot.

They were irritated due to Elk’s attitude from before and my words also added oil to the fire.

But well, if they are agitated, it makes the work more easier for me.

“Elk come on”

“Eh? Ah, Y,Yeah……”

I held out my hand to the fallen Elk. After helping her stand up, I poured magic in my hand without leaving her hand.

While the time Elk was having a『?』floating above her head,

“Elk, I want you to do something, or rather, I want you to pay attention to something, can you understand?”

“? Err, it’s about you, so……maybe running from here?”

“Wrong. I can’t think of Elk escaping successfully from these many people.”

“……You say it quite bluntly. Well, you’re right. Then, maybe, you want me to hide somewhere that I don’t be a hindrance? So that I don’t become a hostage”

“Close enough but wrong. Even if you try to hide, with this many people some will definitely follow you.”

“Then, what should I do……”

Immediately after that,

The magic power poured in my hand was transmitted to Elk, her body was soon clad in phosphorescence like a firefly.

At the same time, Elk’s eyes widened with surprise, most probably because she must have felt her body weight getting really low.

In truth, she not only became light but also had her offensive power and defensive power increased.

After all, I used my hand as an intermediary to transmit『Elemental Blood』in her body.

This『Other Person Enhancement』doesn’t actually administer magic in the blood vessels, but just works like a normal enhancement magic to increase physical strength.

But, it was more powerful than any normal enhancement magic. *This much should be enough.*

It’s disadvantage was that the other person must always be in contact with me or in 10 seconds the effects will be cancelled, but I was going to fight while protecting her so it wouldn’t pose a problem.

I increased her physical abilities so she could match my speed only.

“……You want me to fight together?”

“No, it will be good enough if you just be by my side and keep on getting protected. It will be easier for me to fight then.”

“Ah, Hmm. So this is for that?”

It saves me the trouble if you can understand it quickly.

Well, it would be good enough if she can match my pace.

“Elk, do you know how to dance?”

“I don’t know something elegant like that”

“I see. I also don’t know”

“Then why did you ask it!?”

“No, just if you knew how to dance then you would have matched my pace on your own. It was in the end a short-lived hope. ……*sigh*”

“Don’t say it like I’m not good!”

“Yes, yes. Well then, you don’t seem nervous anymore. Let’s start?”

“Eh……You planned it out?”

“Sorry, Sorry. But it did help you calm down, right?”

“Geez……I really get tired mentally whenever I’m with you”

“It’s good that you are lively right now. Here they come!”

And, surely the moment later,

I didn’t knew for what reason did one of the men attacked, but I rotated my body and kicked him far away while embracing Elk tightly.

The curtains to a bloody fight opened up near the wastelands on the outskirts of city at dusk.

☆☆☆

From the conclusion, it would have been better to say that the fight was one-sided only.

Let it be 10 or 40 of them, bluntly speaking, it didn’t made much difference to me. Just the time taken to break them would increase.

I even had completed the training for fighting while protecting someone when I went to subjugate thieves under the supervision of mom.

The contents were simple.

I had to fight against several thieves while protecting the powerless girl……acting mom.

If, I had made a mistake and let an attack land on her, then she would’ve kicked and killed that thief hard. I would pass if the number of people taken down by mom were 0……I had thought of doing that, but,

Somewhere along the way, it was discovered that mom was more dangerous than me and then nobody even came near us. ……Well, it happens.

The reason it still ended up as 0 person getting killed by mom was because even if others attack were to hit mom it won’t even itch due to her enhanced body and defence power.

I tried to protect Elk using that experience, but it turned out to be more easy than what I had imagined.

Well the fighting experience of the men was low, but what helped me more was that Elk kept up with my pace by herself.

Whenever I gave a roundhouse and rotated my body for it, she moved to the place with no enemies.

She was slipping through attacks, without losing much power and was able to keep up with me.

Sometimes, she sensed the enemies approaching from my back, she would kick them, cut at them and break their bones. This might be little rude, but it did surprise me.

No, well her body had been enhanced, but still it was really a surprise to see her refined movements.

Her moves were sharp and refined along and it seemed like her situation assessment powers are really good.

Maybe, she has a talent in this sort of fighting style……?

Anyhow, she fought like that……to not narrow her aim, she jumped, rolled on ground, rotated, she showed flashy but precise movements and fought with me.

Though it might be singing our own praises, but I still think that our fighting style was vivid and elegant dancing fighting style? maybe.

More briefly, it was like the SFX effects going along with the moves of a Hero like character.

Still with all this and my reviews on this, there were unnecessary movements compared to when normally fighting.

Thanks to the low experience of the men, it helped the on-the-spot-made fighting style, anyhow, all right in the end.

At that pace, the number of people around us started to go down gradually.

They came at us even after seeing the scene of their other allies being mowed down, but in the end they too joined their friends group.

The wastelands which was filled with the bellows of thieves with bad countenance started to quiet down.

There was no longer anyone with a calm and composed posture, all of their faces turned pale seeing the scene of their friends falling down due to flashy and menacing Taijutsu……

“Owaa!?”

“Nh, looks like it is impossible to run on walls?”

“If you know it, then don’t do it!”

I ran on the wall of the ruined buildings for some reason that I forgot while I dodged the attacks.

But, it really was too much. To cover it up, we slided with our hands joined and thanks to that we were able to fight without twisting our hands.

And while time I was kicking a person in front of me, one person from behind attacked me. I gave him an elbow blow and finished him with a roundhouse kick.

Ah, these guys have fighting experience. No, just surrounding us from both sides.

"……It seems like, strangely, my movements have gotten better……I don't know exactly why. It's my first time feeling this"

"? Well, I am making it possible, though"

"No, not that. Well, my physical abilities have increased, but for some reason I can see from where the attacks are coming, more than anything……I can somehow know how you are going to move."

"……Eh? Elk too?"

"Eh?"

Well, it's the same for me.

For some time, I can somehow know how Elk is going to move even if I don't look at her.

That's why I'm leaving the attack and evasion to Elk and I only follow-up when it's a dangerous time. While keeping in mind that our hands remain joined.

Now that I think about it, Elk……is fighting as equals to the people of same or higher rank. It seems strange somehow.

And even though without seeing her, I was able to assess her movements. Just what is this situation……?

"Maybe, we both are compatible?"

"We are quite a dangerous combination then……whoops!"

One more person went down by Elk's knife while evading the person's attack.

Intentionally or not, but we hadn't hit any vitals. There were no dead till now.

But, in case of Elk, she was using knife, therefore there were some who were in really bad state and will die if not treated.

I was also holding back, so I hadn't killed anyone, but I had been moving to protect Elk, so I had been using more power than ever I had against human beings.

Most probably, there were some with major fractures……well, not like I cared.

……While I was thinking that, even before I knew it,

"Ah, looks like it will be over soon, what you gonna do? Err, Leader-san?"

All had been beaten up badly and now only the leader man was left. *Quite cliché.*

He had lost his calm and composed posture, his face had turned pale, it looked like he would fall down by himself.

"……! Impossible……I had dozens of men gathered……"

"A cliché line you said there. Err, Elk what should we do at this point? Will it be good to just take the promissory note, tear it off and throw it?"

"You're right, but you can't tear and throw it. It is an official document after all. Along with that truth, we just need to report to guard about their and『Malras Association』's relation with kidnapper, everything will be over then. ……as for testimony, I will do it."

The moment Elk said so, the man's face paled further.

It seemed like, the things Elk said will be dangerous for them.

"I was a fool to think everything will be over by my sacrifice. If were going to do something, then it should be done thoroughly. I thought it would be bad if the association had links in the dark areas……from that complexion, it seems like I'm not wrong."

"Will it be okay with your testimony only?"

"If it is less, then here are some lying on ground for helping. They're not the people who are loyal to their employer."

Near our foots were, the fainted and near-dying mixed group of kidnappers and money lenders etc.

Surely they seemed like fools who were hired with money. They always knew that they would get punishment sometime and so tried to take even 1 more person with them. Their employer surely wouldn't try to save them intentionally.

"Eh, Elk?! If you tried it then you will to be captured for same crime! If we tell anyone about you supporting the kidnappers, you'll be expelled from guild and either sent to jail or sold off as a criminal slave……"

"Just like I wanted. I already had the determination to go for a hell tour. And, now that I can take you people too, I will happily give my testimony or anything."

"W,Wait! Don't be rash, let's discuss first……T,That's right! You want this right!"

The man took out a single paper from his bosom.

Elk's eyes widened after seeing it. I tried to see what it was that caused Elk to be surprised, it was the……『Promissory Note』?

Moreover, in the Name column was『Elk Caucus』written. *Is this of Elk's debt?*

The man took out a seal-like object from the same bag, and pressed it against the promissory note.

Upon looking at it,

"……What is this『Invalid』thing?"(Minato)

"! By any chance, is this the invalid seal used at the time of cancelling a contract!?"(Elk)

"T,That's right! W,With this Elk, you're debt is now as if it didn't exist! It's good now, right? Please, don't make it more hard for me!"

Err, can someone explain?

"……It can cancel a commercial contract upon the agreement of both parties, or for some major reason from one party. The invalid seal is one way of many methods to cancel a contract."

"It sounds like a troublesome and complicated talk, in simple words, that seal cleared Elk's debts?"

"Well, in simple words"

According to Elk, in the contents of contract, there was a part saying that the creditors (them) can at anytime cancel the contract without the debtor's (Elk) consent.

Most probably, they had made such point for some evil business, but this time they were using it to clear the debt.

That seal was something that only top echelons of the association carried, and the man always has roamed here and there while carrying it. This time, the seal actually had a meaning unlike the evil-schemed sealing.

In other words, though there were some impurities in the deal, but Elk's debt at that moment was completely cleared.

Elk confirmed it with a nod.

It seemed like she had done a lot of studying for these things, therefore, it was fine to leave it to her.

The man pleaded to us while groveling miserably to let him go, now that everything was fine.

I sent a glance to Elk asking what to do, came back was a glance only.

……*Yeah, got it.*

I understood her intentions with just that much.

"……Don't try to come near me ever, no rather, don't even be where I would be"

"Is that she says"

"Eh……! Thank ya! You really saved me!"

We both turned back, not giving even a glance even after hearing a crying voice.

Of course, we took the promissory note. If we had that, then Elk was a free woman.

Even if someone said something later, she would be able to deal with it. It seemed like the forgery of both promissory note and seal was impossible.

And, suddenly I felt the man standing behind us silently and sighing with relief.

"You kids are……just easy to fool!!"

"Don't steal my line"

SFX: ——Bakii

“GuGoo!?”

The man who attacked at us from behind armed with a knife……danced in air, after getting hit by my electrified roundhouse kick.

And he disappeared inside the window of the ruined building, on which I tried to run some time before.

Like hell……I will let him go. If I leave you, then Elk would be fine, but other people would cry in her place in future.

We acted a bit and showed him that we had our guards down while I was getting prepared to strike with fists when he attacked.(It was Kick though)

The probability of him fainting down was……not like I cared and not like I even looked.

At the very least, I kicked him with quite a lot of power and voltage. So he won’t be able to move for a long time with his broken and burned muscles. It might be his most serious injury in his entire lifetime.

With this everything was over.

“And, What are you going to do, Elk?”

“……Just like I said. I will report each and every work they had done. Even if I get accused due to it. ……That will be my decision.”

“You’re……serious about it”

“Yeah. Sorry Minato, I got you involved in my troubles……so till the end, I was being protected by you.”

“I’m not worrying about it at all. I myself, personally like Elk. It was quite fun to roam in the labyrinth and make fuss while rampaging inside there.”

“It was only you who made fuss and went on a rampage!”

Elk said as she looked at the promissory note in her hands.

Right now it was a scrap of paper with no restriction ability. But it still could be used a piece of evidence.

It was a paper that would be an evidence which would condemn her to jail, but Elk still looked at it as a precious item which she got back.

……She wouldn’t change her decision, no matter what I say.

“It’s unfortunate—- I was thinking of making a pair with Elk”

I had heard from mom.

The occupation called adventurers not only fought against monsters and demons but also against fellow humans.

Let it be going in Danger Area or going on a journey, an adventurer would sooner or later definitely need a friend who would accompany him/her.

It was not difficult to find a person to accompany yourself with for one or two times, but it was difficult to find a person who would, to the last end, accompany you.

That was true, after all it was impossible to understand someone else's mind 100%.

For that reason, I seriously wanted Elk.

Surely there weren't many people who didn't run from their sins but bear them and lived while repenting for them.

"……Stop jesting. You will sooner or later meet more better people than me. ……It's better if you don't get involved with a girl like me ever again."

She revealed a transient pretty smile.

Pathetic of me, I couldn't find any words to return.

"Well, I will be able to take many of the evil people with me in this way. But, it is regrettable that even then I wouldn't be able to deal a blow to Malras Association."

"What is that『Malras Association』? It sounds like a big company or something of sort"

"Yeah, you don't know about it. It's is the most influential trading association here, even within the country it is one of the leading associations. Well, I don't know if they are involved in this case or not. The only thing I can do is, try to take as more evil people with me and pray that someone like me is not born again in this city……"

"Ara, in that case you don't have to worry? It will be over soon enough after all."(???)

""!!?""

Suddenly a new voice resounded. *Eh, What!?*

Instinctively, Elk and I looked the place where the voice came from.

There a single girl was standing.

She had cream-colored long hair which run down till her waist.

Her looks are rather childish, it can be said『Cute』instead of『Beautiful』. Her age was more than that of me and Elk. Somewhere around the twenties.

She was wearing a spacious and wavy kimono like cloth and a sandal which closely resembled the japanese sandals. It is like the clothes of someone who half-assedly tried to make western-clothes in japanese styled clothes, somewhere along the lines.

The thing which was more impactful, was……the cream-colored bouncy『Ears』.

Cat Ears? no, they seem more like……fox?

When I look carefully at her, I found a fox tail growing from her waist. *Beast person??*

I couldn't feel any bloodlust from that gentle-faced person. I could only see her looking at us while she

grinned.

But……I couldn't be careless.

After all, I was not able to sense her when she came near us. Even with my hearing.

……*Clearly, she ain't any ordinary person.*

"Yeah, Yeah. Remain right there. You don't have to be on guard that much, I'm not thinking about any dangerous thing"

Just why is she speaking in Kansai Dialect? What is wrong with this world?

That person, ginned even while knowing we were sending eyes filled with carefulness and guard.

"Ah, sorry. I came out and didn't even introduce myself. I'm Noel Co Malras. I'm the manager of that Malras Association you guys were talking about just before. Nice to meet you♪"

She introduced herself, as if natural.

Chapter 18 – The Smiling Fox and Male Gender Part 1

At a brisk pace,

The beautiful girl in Japanese-like clothes started walking without showing any sign of fear or anything in the situation, with heaps of bodies lying on ground.

The girl who introduced herself as one of the representative of『Malras Association』, walked towards the ruined building in which I threw the leader man, she took a peek inside from the window, and put her hand inside,

"Heave-ho"

Along with an encouraging yell, she pulled out the man with one hand, while holding him by collar as if he were a cat or some pet.

The girl threw the man on the ground roughly without paying attention to us who were shocked at her unexpected physical strength, she crouched besides him and started slapping the man's face repeatedly.

"Hey, wake up already. If you don't wake up till I count 10, then have fun with your eternal rest."

"Nh, Gu……W……What……!!? O, O, Okami-san!?"

Okami-san, you say.

This person gives of the feeling of Japan at many points. Let it be her Kansai Dialect or clothes, just what is wrong with this word, fricking made up of mixture of Japan and Europe.

Incidentally, the man who had regained his consciousness started trembling from fear the moment『Okami-san』entered his vision.

The smile of that fox-eared okami-san was so good that a person will go head over heels for her. However, it was quite a strange picture to see the man being frightened by it, it seemed like he would die.

She surely said a dangerous sentence as if normal, just now.

"So well then, you seem like quite beaten up, not like I care about it though. I won't let you say that you don't know the reason I am here for?"

"Ah, no, e, err, it's, it's different, Okami-san! I, I didn't do this! Err, the secretary, no I mean, subordinates did it on their own accord……"

"You're the secretary, Argh, I don't want to hear your excuses? I had been seeing everything from the time, that green-haired girl was speaking caustic words like wanting to be boiled or skinned."

From that time!?

I didn't sense her at all. I, should have even more sharpened senses than usual in my combat stance…… seriously, just what is this person!?

The secretary, man, twinkled his eyes while his face paled having lost all the blood, in this situation, having his misdeeds found out by this『Okami-san』

However, in this situation,

The man who is most likely an big-shot in『Malras Association』was getting blamed by an even more big-shot,『Okami-san』a.k.a Noel.

Does that mean『Malras Association』was not at all related in this case?

Is it because some elated people rampaged, that a top-brass came out to investigate it?

Right now, the man who was the『main culprit』, stood in between a dilemma.

"Geez, just from where did you get the nerve to use our association's name in this way? You don't need to come from tomorrow? And I have called the guards, so silently go with them. ……Ah, you can't even move."

"O, Okami-san! Please wait, it's different, I didn't, please spare me……Gaa!"

"You're annoying. Go sleep"

Okami-san, hit the base of the throat of man who was wailing in an unsightly manner, with a chop and took his consciousness.

Her actions were small, but it seemed like the attack had a lot of power in it.

The man spat out foam from his mouth and stopped moving.

The Okami-san, stood back up while sighing and faced us.

Instinctively we both took combat posture but neither rebuking us nor making an unpleasant face, she just moved towards us while grinning.

"Well the. You are Elk Caucus right?"

"Y-Yeah that's right……?"

"I see. In that case……I need to properly apologize to you."

Suddenly, she splendidly bowed her head towards Elk while bending at exact 90 degree angle.

"Elk-han, I'm sorry that our people created problems for you. I'm really sorry. I will prepare and complete the formal procedures later, but please forgive me for now with this much."

"Eh!? Ah, No, Err, Umm, I don't reall……"

Elk started. She was surprised seeing the unexpected actions.

Even I was also surprised. If someone suddenly apologizes properly, anyone would be.

After all, the feelings of really asking for forgiveness was being transmitted from her bowing figure. Her attitude from before took a 180 degree turn and was now serious.

Of course, there was a chance that this all was an act……it it was, then I felt that nobody in the world, could

be trusted ever again.

“U, Umm, I don’t really mind it……is something I won’t say, but now that I have gotten an apology and my debt has been cleared, It’s alright now.”

I don’t think that anyone would blame Elk for replying in panic.

“Is that so. Then I will take up your words.”

Saying that, she pulled up her head up and once again faced us.

“Well then I have apologized you and gotten mercy, but it’s not good to not explain the things to you. I want to explain about why I have come here, do you have time?”

According to Okami-san,

This was a scandal created by this man, misusing his power. He was also the secretary of the head director of『Malras Association』.

And he gave illegal loans at first and then to repay the loans with severe interest he asked the borrower to help in kidnapping people, to increase his own profits.

The upper echelons like Okami-san, moved at once to deal with this case because they had already gotten enough evidence due to internal inspection they had done.

The slave dealers and kidnappers who were related in the black market trading routes along with this man- I didn’t knew his names till the end. Not like I cared- were in middle of being arrested by the guards.

Meanwhile, Okami-san headed to this place because the main culprit was here, but en route, she found me heading here too.

It was after I had cleaned up the people patrolling near the inn and was following Elk.

And the place I was headed to was same, so she thought what if and her guess hit the mark. She watched the scene play from when Elk showed her determination to the people.

After that, she remained on the sidelines.

She only came out after I cut right in, fought along with Elk and annihilated everyone.

She seemed to have thought of helping us if it became dangerous, but seeing us safely kicking their asses, she decided to be on the sidelines. *She’s quite wicked.*

And so, thanks to our hard work of kicking their asses, this case has been solved without any help from the person who should have done it, Okami-san.

“In truth, I needed to complete many procedures regarding the debt money of Elk-han. But, thanks to this guy doing most of work, now only little tweaks are needed.”

Okami-san said as such while looking at the promissory note with the『Invalid Stamp』pressed on it.

In other words, the stamp had worked its wonders by cancelling the contract. Now Elk didn’t even need to repay the principal amount too.

Okami-san too was accepting the matter. All is well if it ends well.

Incidentally, this, criminal group, would be bearing the responsibility to repay the money for the damages they have caused.

“But still, I need to complete the left paperworks, can you come to the association on some another day?”

“Yeah, I will……Umm, there’s one thing, I am concerned about?”

Elk timidly raised her head up.

She opens her mouth even more timidly, as though she were afraid to hear the answer.

“Err……I think there are other people who had also helped the kidnappers due to being deceived……what will you do about them?”

I see. This matter seriously is one thing you would want to hear, but also not hear.

The people who did the work, were without a doubt『Victim』, but they were without a doubt『Perpetrator』too. They just couldn’t be left, without getting punishment.

Of course, Elk wouldn’t had run no matter the conclusion, she had made her decision, but……it was not like she was not anxious.

Okami-san looked Elk, shivering, and made an expression that said she understood her.

“As for that, the victims all were different, right? There were some who did it unwillingly and some did it in high spirits. Of course, the latter will be given severe punishment, but even if the former did it unwillingly, the crime is a crime, we can’t just release that person.”

“I see……understood, would it be good that I show my face at guards headquarters, instead of the association?”

Elk’s face cramped for a second, but she recovered in a bit, and declared that she would surrender at the Guards Headquarters-something like police?- instead of going to the association.

She had made her decision from the start, so she was able to even speak this.

But, Okami-san interrupted her, by saying『That is right, but?』in between

“In your case, it is a little complicated.”

“? Complicated?”

“That’s right. I had heard from the guy who was managing the kidnappers after beating him up, Elk-han you have helped them only 1 time, right ? And that too ended up as failure? Because of that, there is no stolen loot which can be used as evidence, it will be difficult for making a case for prosecution.”

““Eh?””

“That’s why, even if you surrender, they won’t hear you, they already have many cases to deal with which『have』evidences. Well, you can give the testimony, though it will bring blame on you”

Okami-san stopped speaking at『But, of course』and glanced at me,

“If the『Victim』themselves give the testimony, then it will be different?”

“I don’t know what you talking about”(Minato)

“Looks like it?”(Noel)

“……You……”(Elk)

At that moment, a method of proving Elk to be innocent, was made.

“Well, even if Minato-han gave the testimony, there is no evidence to relate it to, furthermore, he even flipped tables over them at their own game. At most, you would get a lecture and have to pay a fine. Even so, if you want to give the testimony, then please come during the time of completing the paperwork.”

“……Will do. I want to complete all things I have to do.”

“Yes. Fufu, you’re quite a honest and serious person, you don’t see them now.”

“You’re thinking too much of me. I’m just a cheapskate, who can’t even do self-management.”

Okami-san laughed as if she was happy, while Elk was showing an expression as if she were exhausted. Within the wastelands, laugh and sigh resounded.

Later on, we will be introduced to Okami-san’s association, complete the paperwork and go to the guards for giving testimony. -Elk seemed like she was 100% going to say that she helped the kidnappers, but the probability of ignoring her rant is high- Anyhow, like that, we talked about what to do.

She said, the faster the better it would be, so she would send a cart/wagon to『Bermuda』tomorrow.

At the moment, I thought that it was getting late for dinner, and we should return,

“Ah, please wait, Minato-han. I also have business with you too.”

“Eh, With me? Err, is it related to this case?”

“No, no, it’s a little personal thing? Ah, but, I can’t ask it here……can you tomorrow along with Elk-han?”

“? Well, I don’t mind”

“Minato you’re getting infected by that”

Oops, she’s right. Strange Phenomenon. It’s not like I am a person from Kansai area.

Anyhow, with that our conversation with Okami-san a.k.a Noel-san met its end.

Noel-san left just like the way she came, she looked towards us once again while going and grinned.

Well, then let’s go eat dinner.

……Even so,

Who is that, Okami-san? It feels like I have seen her somewhere before too……?

No, I just left the home yesterday, but still she gives of a feeling like she's not a stranger……? How should I say, it feels similar to something.

I haven't seen her, but it doesn't feel like I have met her for first time today……it's quite strange to say it myself, but Just WHAT THE HELL IS THAT FEELING!?

……Well, whatever.

☆☆☆

A few hours later,

After returning to inn, I part with Elk, and return to my room.

It was the time adventurers started assemble for drinking, so I quickly, returned to my room and didn't leave. If I did, it will be really troublesome.

After that, I ate the brought food, and relaxed comfortably.

Most probably Elk would also be feeling like so. Today many things happened.

Normally, adventurers always check their『Equipment』after returning to inn.

They repair the damaged protective armaments, torn clothes, dulled weapon, and prepare for next adventure.

I went in dungeon today and yesterday, furthermore I fought quite flashily today, the state of my equipments is,

Clothes: Not even a speck of dust.

Scarf: Same as above.

Black Belt: Same as above.

Gauntlets and Shin Guards: Not even a scratch.

There wasn't any need for repairs. At the very least, not with fights like yesterday or today.

No, I did knew it, but just like it was in letter, this is great equipment.

Yeah, well, it is good for no trouble?

What was this talk about, it was all about, the second half of the Japanese Dictionary like letter which I read while leaving my『Home』.

The letter, had a little more continuation about these equipments.

First, the black clothes(have 2 of them).

At a glance they were normal clothes, but they were not normal clothes.

This is incredibly tough. Even if it was cut by blade, thrown in fire, it won't even get a single scratch. Frankly, it was more reliable than a armor of steel. It was light too.

In addition to that, it even had resistance towards magic.

Due to that, even if my body was on fire from the use of『Magic Arts』it won't burn, furthermore I won't need to wash them if the dirt will get burned by the flames.

……Seriously, from what is this thing made from?

Next, jet-black scarf. The toughness, magic resistance, or 'cleaning' magic was the same as clothes.

In addition to that, this scarf can transform.

In the first place this scarf, was an『Overcoat』. The one I wore at first.

There was no need for it neither the weather was bad, and so, I had changed it into a stylish『Scarf』.

Furthermore, it could be transformed into mantle or picnic sheet, and many various things, or so it was written in the letter. I have yet to try it.

And, the gauntlets and shin guards.

They were made from『Joker Metal』, not sure, but these were made from not-so-normal metal, anyhow they were strong. Tough and sturdy.

And, the『Magic Endurance』and『Magical Conductivity』were also quite high.

This wouldn't break even after taking enemies attacks, or even if my magical power were too much powerful. For using『Magic Arts』, this equipment was the best.

Most probably, mom didn't gave me a normal beginner adventurer's equipments for this reason. A normal steel, wouldn't be able to endure the burden caused by my magical power.

And at last, was the mom's hand-made black belt. This was the most awesome of all.

Just like clothes, it too had special ability, the awesome thing about the black belt, was, it too had『Storage Ability』like the『Hyperspace Backpack』.

Of course, it couldn't store many items like the backpack, but instead of it, it had a convenient thing that backpack lacked.

I can take out and store the item just by imagining it.

That's why, I had stored Knife for tearing raw materials, pocket changes, things like that, on the time of taking them out, I only need to imagine. Ultra Convenient.

And, there was 1 more awesome thing about this belt.

I came store and take out things into/from it even if I'm wearing the equipment.

As to what it exactly is……Ah, let me demonstrate.

I, after checking the gauntlets and shin guards, wore them on my leg and hands.

And, imagined for it to be『Stored』inside the black belt.

In an instant,

The gauntlets and shin guards got『Stored』inside……the black belt.

And, once again, this time imagined『Come out』

In an instant, the gauntlets and shin guards come out in『Equipped』state.

In other words, wearing the clothes and equipments from before『Storing』will completely remove the equipping of them after taking them out, an ultra useful tool.

Depending on the use, this is a super hero belt……it tickled my child heart.

Well, that's how it was,

Due to the not-normal equipments, it doesn't seem like the need for maintenance will come any time soon.

Because I had free time, this time , I open up 1 of the farewell gift from mom,『Necromicon』.

In this many magical rites, knowledge related to them and many other things were written down it, an complicated magical book. Moreover, this in itself is an magic item.

This book which was thought to reach many hundred pages, would make people get cold feet before reading through its thickness and complicated words. But, I don't think there would be any harm in learning the knowledge written, so I try to read little by little. I skipped over the the things I didn't understand, and only read the things I could understand.

I spent some time like that, and the night came.

I already got bored of Necromicon. Though I have only read 20 pages yet.

That being the case, I entered the bath just a while ago.

It had been divided in men and women baths, during the working hours anyone can enter.

The time bar is crowded, the bath is not crowded, this information from Tanya-chan really did help me. I left the bath after relaxing for some minutes, as it was in a chartered state. *No, it's was not like I took the bath in hurry, I always take bath for short time. Since the previous life.*

……Now then, I seriously have nothing else to do.

I don't want to read Necromicon today at all, and don't even have something else to kill time.

Can't be helped, I should sleep.

I have felt to stay up the whole night, but in this world without electricity, I can't do anything in the night too. Yeah, I 've got nothing to do.

After drying up the little wet hair with the magic of『Fire』and『Water』, I entered the bed.

And, after blowing out the candle light, I finally……

……finally……

……finally……

……Not good, I really can't sleep.

I opened my closed eyes. My eyelids were no in the least heavy. I didn't want to sleep.

I intuitively knew it. I couldn't sleep like that. I won't be able to sleep.

There was no light within the dark room with the candlelight out, the only little light is the moonlight coming in from the gaps of curtain.

But, with my nocturnal animal like eyes, I can look easily with just that much.

It did had the feeling of『Darkness』, but walking without bumping into things and tables and all, is a piece of cake.

……*but, it ain't damn relevant.*

I know the reason I can't sleep. I know it completely.

I just……don't want to accept it, I don't want to deal with it.

That's why I tried to divert my attention from it……by dinner, equipment checking, bath, Necromicon, but it was all useless. As expected, men are just like that.

It would be problematic to not sleep till morning, and it's not like I am not interested.

……Can't be helped then.

"……Let's go to『Red-light district』……"

☆☆☆

Time goes back to several hours.

After coming from the fighting with those people, I was captivated by the『change』of city while en route to inn with Elk.

They were not in morning, but at that this time, I saw many women walking here and there with charming atmosphere and alluring perfume scent drifting from them.

The women wearing those outfits felt like『Of course it's that』. I didn't need to ask Elk, their attire alone told me.

The next moment, maybe because I had a REALLY relaxed face, Elk's elbow came attacking the side of my stomach with full force as if to say "Don't make a foolish face". Thanks to that, I regained my consciousness.

But, even after becoming aware of it, there seemed to be my male part that couldn't be saved, even after that, the moment they entered my vision, I kept looking at them.

At that time, it felt like Elk who was walking besides was getting in a bad mood. Her trademark(?), the disgusted eyes were slightly awkward at that time.

No, well……It must've been an ugly sight in her eyes for a man to chase after women of『That sort of occupation』 with eyes, even while being with a girl. I'm sorry

☆☆☆

And, just a little later,

I arrived at the inn, it was during the time I was returning to my room from reception.

The time I reached 2nd floor, I met with the husband of innkeeper-Father of Tanya-chan-, and in truth this sort of conversation started.

『Hey, Minato-kun, was it? I've heard about your great deeds』

『No, that……Hahaha, it's nothing great. Ah, it would help me if you will not spread that rumour in public』

『Haha, that is difficult. To accompany with these kind of topics, is kind of an duty for me as an owner of bar and inn. Well, I'll try to not spread it myself.』

『Ahh-, I see. I didn't want to become someone famous……*sigh* It's depressing』

『Oh, you're quite a strange one. The adventurers, mostly want to become famous.』

『Is that so?』

『Well of course. If you become famous, you can increase trust and degree of attention from guild, quest requester and even fellow adventurers. In that case, there would more work, and even some specifically nominated requests. Many famous teams would recruit you and you would get benefits at various shops. It will also become an connection to many places, those are weapons for emergencies, right? At the time of large-scale of exploration of savage-land areas, it becomes easier to find sponsors too.』

『Y-You're quite informed……』

『Yeah, I was an adventurer myself before. But I was not cut out for it, so at the time of taking this inn from father, I completely left that job.』

『Ah, Is that so? I didn't knew it』

『It was around that time I met with my wife. Fufu, at that time my life was best. It felt like I was quite famous just by being an adventurer, I even went to red-light district.』

『Hahaha……Hm? 『Red-light district』 ?』

『Hm? Yeah, it's near from here, it's also known as sex district. Adventurer occupation is a one in which many things pile up, for better or for worse. Male in particular. In big cities like ours where adventurers gather, there is always one or two……you interested?』

『……』

☆☆☆

Immediately, the owner, made a map to red-light district and handed it to be forcibly.

After being forcibly given, maybe because my male gender was being sad, that I couldn't throw it.

I had some stimulating memories from just before it, and it was already night, so the desires fixed their roots deep in my heart tonight.

Humans are strange creatures, till the time they don't think about it nothing occurs, but once they become aware of it, it then couldn't be stopped.

This kind of things has sprouted, I think……for the first time after that day mom assaulted me.

Probably, after that, we both recognised ourselves as real『Parent & Child』though not blood-related, which controlled everything.

Since then, mom entered her『Child raising mode』, her sexual desires towards me vanished and there wasn't a second time『of that』anymore.

I still thought mom as an attracting woman, but there wasn't any time I saw her with eyes filled with『That sort of emotions』.

That's why, I didn't do that deed after the night I was assaulted by mom.

Though, we still had breakfast, bath, and sleep together, the physical contact was the same as before.

That me, left the western-style house, found freedom-filled lifestyle, but still that sort of desire never exploded.

Weapon shop, Item shop, Guild and Dungeon, with the thrill of this 120% Fantasy world, I didn't think about that kind of things till now.

……Though I did not think,

Due to previous conversation and experience, that sort of sensation……the obvious sensation of an boy in puberty both in this life and previous life, was rapidly revived.

My mind was filled with, on the level that I couldn't even sleep.

I deeply think that there should be bounds, but when it still couldn't be helped.

In that case, naturally there is a need to cancel it by doing something,

Besides there are perfect places……just like the owner was saying, they really are present in big cities where adventurer gather.

The pleasure giving place called as…… 『Red-Light District』 ……

That's how it was,

Purse, get. Or rather『Stored』it into the black belt.

I didn't knew the price, but with a gold coin it must work wonders.

I took the map drawn by the owner of inn= Father of Tanya-chan.

Due to my sense of values from previous life, it felt like I was about to do something not good, but it was only a normal thing to do in this word, I persuaded myself saying that 10~20 times.

That's right, it's only a part of education of life. It's not a thing to be guilty……well I can't say it, but right now it can't be helped.

All right, preparations OK

And, when I opened the door for leaving the room,

"……Where are you going?"

I met with Elk wearing a bathrobe (like pajama) and standing in front of my room.

Chapter 19 – The Most Critical Point of Today

Recap.

I tried to go to Red-light district for venting out my desire, but before going I was stopped by a wall which may explode my desires. Recap Finished.

「……Elk?」

「What?」

In front me is……Elk standing as if she just got out of bath.

「Err……What, are you doing?」

「Nothing in particular? Just took a bath, so I thought of coming to you for playing for some time. Where are you going?」

Wet hair, steam rising from her body. A faint scent of soap also is drifting around her.

Though she has her trademark(?) glasses……she is not in her adventurer equipments, but in a bathrobe.

Moreover, the places around chest, is peeking out of from the gaps of robe.

To be honest……It's poison for eyes!

In the labyrinth too, she did wear clothes with exposure for agile movements……but in this situation I just can't ignore it.

I was about to go explode my worldly desires, so it's even more difficult to ignore.

……It's dangerous somewhat. It's sexy.

「……Where are you going?」

To the dumbfounded me, Elk once again asks.

「T-That's umm……」

Calm down Me. Get the coolness back.

Elk surely……probably doesn't has any ulterior motive, and it's only coincidence she was standing outside my door. I don't want her to look coldly at me after knowing my purpose to go there.

「Hey, just a walk, you see. I thought to breathe some outside air.」

「I see. Then I will also come. I'll change clothes so wait a bit.」

「Eh" !?"」

Unexpectedly Freakish Answer! An unintentional frank answer that is.

Wai, Just why at this timing!?

「W-Why you too? You just got out of bath, if you come then you might catch cold.」

「I'm not that weak. And, it feels good when night wind hits the hot body.」

「Eh, Ah, Yeah, I kinda want walk alone, you see……」

「Oh, I was also thinking of walking……you will let me walk alone at night?」

Ku, For every remark this and that……I just can't run away from it, or rather, it feels like I am getting stuck in a very bad situation. Why?

I mean, something like, I am getting cornered by her and she knows everything……

Suddenly Elk breathes a sigh and,

「I don't care anymore. You want to go to Red-Light District, right?」

「GoFuu!?」

Wai, Why that!?

No, I'm definitely not confident in my acting ability, but I think I tried my best to not let her know, still she knows it!?

Was I looking at Elk with sexual aroused eyes unconsciously……Not good, I now want to die in a ditch.

Now will Elk's special disgusted eyes come flying at me, while I was thinking that,

「Just before, you were hearing the place of Red-light District from Owner, right? i was standing just behind you and hear it……you didn't knew I was there? It isn't like you」

「Eh!? Really!?」

No Shit, I made a big BIG MISTAKE! Did my awareness ability got dull hearing the contents of the talk……. Just how much am I weak to that stuff!?

……For what reason, does my my sensing ability isn't reliable at important points, let it be this time or the traffic accident in labyrinth, what the fuck is going on!?

No, besides that,

To the girl Elk, my male desires were exposed, this is an enormously embarrassing situation. I have to do something.

Thinking what should I say, I try to see her in the eyes,

and suddenly she pushed me back in the room and closed the door. ……Why?

To the bewildered me, Elk speaks

「……You don't have to go?」

「Eh?」

「I'm saying that if you want to cuddle with a girl, then isn't one standing in front of you」

「……What!?」

Wait!? Eh!? WTF!?

In this situation where I just couldn't understand a thing, this girl just said something absurd that so frankly.

Moreover, even Elk, maybe because of embarrassment, has her face red. That is also cute……Shit Shit! It ain't the time to think that!

however in that time, Elk in a hurry grabs my hand and……wait, wait! wait a bit! There is bedroom!

「……You not satisfied with me?」

「No, not that, b-but no matter what this is just too much suddenly!? I don't see any logical connection, I don't understand why you doing this……」

「……It's not that much of a difficult reason」

I was taken to bedroom in a hurry.

However, there Elk……sits on the bed and,

「Within 2 previous days, I was saved many times by you」

Abruptly, with that line, she started her story.

「At first, you saved me when I was assaulted by that pervert adventurer. If you didn't, I might have been raped. No I surely would have been.」

Ah, that traffic accident, I see.

No, that was just an coincidence, a normal reckless vehicle manslaughter……

「That alone is normally a great debt. But, after that too, you saved me many times.」

Elk continues calmly.

「Even at the time we met the goblin's crowd in dungeon. It's normal to run if you're a party of two, but you still saved me easily.」

Yeah, debut fight(mostly of narration only).

「Today too, at the time with Mad Monkeys, Little Beasts, that big-serpent……more than anything, the matter with those people at evening. I was saved 4 or 5 times within these 2 days by you.」

No well, aside from the big-scale flashy work, I just did what was needed to be done……Isn't it natural to save your partner in your team?

「……On top of that, the work I did yesterday……repaying debt with evil, you even forgave me for that. And because of that, I got over various things, and moved a little forwards myself.」

No, I am not caring about it at all, don't bring this matter up again…….

「You do many good things, but I couldn't do anything. After I repaid the debt with evil, I was only getting saved by you……there is nothing more pathetic than this!」

She speaks out as if to rebuke herself. Though her voice is not much to call it loud.

「……That's why, I want to repay the debt even if a little. I had my life and heart saved many times, and I don't think I will be able to repay the whole debt like this, but still……」

And Elk……comes up to me and leans her body……and sinks her head in my chest.

In that posture……she looks up at me with upturned eyes.

……Even I know what she is going to say after this.

And, I……

「That's why Minato. At least, let me……」

「Farewell!」

「Yeah, Farewell……What!?」

…….ran.

The moment, Elk got in the mood, closed her eyes, let her body to me……I ran with all my might.

Why? Isn't it obvious!!

I'm not good with them! These sort of situations!

It may only be lip-service, or one-sided convenient talk, in the first place in the present time when I am going to Red-Light District, though it may sound egoistic……I just can't deal with a situation in which a girl is giving her body to me. For example, selling oneself for saving the family, something like that.

That isn't a exception, even if the target on the『Receiving』 end is me, even if I am in a situation where I am about to go and play with my desires.

Well, I really am happy for Elk's feelings.

But, for that reason, I won't accept her offer.

……If I did it, even if once we have a relationship like that……I'm not confident of having conversations like we had till now. It will definitely get awkward.

She is my first after leaving home, I won't do that, not a chance.

That's why! I will refuse that offer! ……this all was thought in 0.1 second.

「Wai……Hey!! Wait right there, you call yourself a man, huh……」

Elk from behind is saying something like『Giving embarrassment to girl』and『ability』, are all purposely ignored.

I leap out of bedroom, the room.

To be honest, right now head is in chaos, but for the time being putting aside the matter of going to Red-Light District, I need to get out of here first.

Long story short……I need to get out of her grasp first……

「I-I resolved myself to invite you and you……come baaaaccccckkkkk!!」

I run through the corridor, and am already in front the entranceway of inn. All, last spurt.

And……

SFX: ——-DoDoDoDoDo……Batan!! [Sound of running back]

「……You really came back?」

「……No, I can't pass through」

There were people. Fucking sure there were.

Most probably those drunk adventures who were making noise like『Gahahahahahaha』

And also those people, who were talking about『Adventurer in Black』. Just too many of them.

It's already too late, there shouldn't be more people, or so I thought but still more than 30 were still lurking here.

Moreover, that talk has already spread to the lobby near reception, i can't go in there to just pass through the entrance.

Are they still talking about crap, though it has already been 1 whole day.

And, I recall the words of Tanya's Papa a.k.a owner of inn『We approve fooling around if there is no fight or breaking of furniture』

In that case, I need to remain in my room, till their high-spirits calm down?

Ah, there was this idea! I can escape from window……

「If you go Red-Light District, won't it still become a big thing to talk about?」

「……Ah」

Certainly.

No, in this appearance, let alone Red-Light District, the moment I go to the road someone will realize me……

And, Red-Light District is generally a pleasure district, so it will have too much of lantern lights, and in that completely bright road……even in night, my eyes and hair color will be recognised.

And Red-Light District, is the place where the『pander』of prostitutes is done in public, without a doubt more people will 『bother』 me there.

If I just stepped there, a new rumour will start spreading, about me in black attire entering there…….

「You are certainly popular, even with everything being just a rumour」

「……*sigh*……」

☆☆☆

In the end, after knowing that going out was in the first place impossible, I returned back to my room.

Even so, my thoughts won't change, I have no intention of accepting Elk's offer.

However Elk is also stubborn, is she going to wait for my rationality to collapse, it's troubling me now that she is waiting in my room.

And so, be both are simply relaxing on the sofa in room. ELk is drinking tea though.

Right now, it is a deadlock situation.

Elk is still dressed in her pajama from before, I am facepalming while filling『Ice』magic in my hand to keep my rationality while cooling down my head physically.

Yeah, it feels good.

「……How about you stop doing that? You'll get frostbite?」

「It's fine It's fine this much won't hurt. My face is also hot right now」

「*Sigh*……Ah, That's right, can you cool this down?」

Saying that she puts forwards her cup with brewed tea inside it. Ah,so you want to drink cold tea.

I don't have any reason to refuse, so I took the cup with my hand filled with『Ice』magic and it cooled down in just 5 seconds.

I can turn in into ice using the water in atmosphere, but she isn't wanting that so I hand her the cooled down tea.

Still awkward. This situation. Really awkward.

Situation like this-with awkward atmosphere-, I have experienced in my previous life too.

Something like having troubles talking normally like I had.

Like having money involved in the lending and borrowing between friends,

and getting merits from that, the attitude changes.

Or something like confessing the girl you like who is also your best friends, but end up with a splendid failure, and don't know how to talk to each other from now on.

……There was 1 idiot, who did that on the first day of excursion trip, and the rest all days ended up with awkward atmosphere drifting.

The talk before is just like two best friends, recognise each other as other gender person, and are feeling strange kind of estrangement. This situation right now is just like that.

It's even more troublesome than the time I confronted that big-serpent in day. The atmosphere is unbearably too bad.

Moreover, if I somehow endured the gazes of people in the entranceway and reached Red-light District.

After that, the awkward atmosphere will not subside but increase in power level.

In that case, I who care about friendship more, have to patch up with her, let her understand my reasons, then go to Red-light District, and still not create the awkward situation, this is quite an ideal shape but…… what the fucking impossible mission I'm talking about.

Just in which world, would be a girl, who would smile and send the man who rejected her to red-Light District. Now that I about it, that just can't happen.

Then,

Elk created a stir in this uncomfortable situation.

「Honestly, it was unexpected. I surely thought I would get 2 answers」

「……Did I look that much perverted?」

「Not that, but it should be a normal reaction」

Saying that, she sighs. And takes one sip of iced tea.

「I mean there are more people with that kind of thinking?」

「That is also included, but in this case, if by chance, it is demanded by man, a considerable price should be there. I'm repeating, but I have been saved a lot of times by you?」

During first meeting, cafe, during the time with goblins……Elk starts counting on her fingers.

And also adds, that all were life-threatening.

Fundamentally, the occupation called adventurers have work where they have to put life in danger and are serious when the talk comes to rewards and scold at uneven partition of rewards. It's natural that they expect the reward for the work they have done.

But there isn't that general concept in me, so it's hard to think about it too.

She also said, I saved her life, forgave her for her sins, and still not demand anything, am I some sort of damn man with noble virtue. It would be better if you demanded for my body or money.

Well, it's not like I don't understand her point. Elk has strong feelings and other stuff, so she would have stronger sense of responsibility than other people.

But, if I did it,

Then though Elk would feel relief, but I would feel sense of guilty, both ways, it would end up awkward from now on. Confirmed.

It's repeating but, I'm not good with offers like, which involve……selling of body.

It's not becoming the solution to my fundamental problem, so no matter……

Then,

「……Well, if you're like that. Then it's fine」

「Eh?」

「I want to repay the debt, but I have no intention to be pushy about it. It's trouble for you that way. However……」

Elk drinks all of the tea in her cup, and briskly comes walking up to me.

And, instinctively I put my guard up, but she touches my cheeks with her hand, and disappears from my vision,

SFX: ——Chyuu [Do you need to know?]

I feel somewhat soft feeling on my cheeks.

「……？　!?　!?!?!?」

「I-It won't hurt to thi-this much, right?」

Elk speaks as such while blushing and stuttering.

My mind is steadily understanding what just happened.

But……somewhere in my mind, it feels like it would be better if I don't understand it.

To Elk it might be just some mischievous play with some compromise.

No, well compared to that, doing a normal kiss is only lukewarm thing.

But, however,

If after that, she is blushing, it's going to be get critically bad.

Would it be easier to understand the variety of attack changed from『Woman』to『Girl』, even more briefly her appearance changed from『Erotic』to『Cute』.

In addition Elk is, umm……I never paid much attention, but her eyes filled with her feelings, her sometimes seen disgusted eyes, her heart having clear opinions, her appearance and personality, is quite to my liking.

The attack of『Cute』is more nasty than her『Erotic』attack. It feels like desire and many more things, are hitting the roots of my brain.

And in addition to that,

「Y-You hate that thing that I'm compromising and giving this much? It's not like……I wanted to do it on cheek, it's due to compromise! D-Don't misunderstand me.」

……Just like that, it becomes my first day seeing a『Tsundere』,

This ain't compromise, but lethal final attack. Dodge impossible……

SFX: Dossa

「!? Eh? W-M-Minato!? Wai, What happened suddenly!?」

Getting a critical hit with a surprise attack while I was defenseless, having my rationality cornered, hand over the consciousness, and fall face down.

I fall along with Sofa, while making a lot of noise.

「W-What!? Why is the person who was about to go to Red-Light District, falling down with just this much!?」

You're completely right.

But, if it will end with much without crossing over the line, isn't it all good…….

……I was naive to even think that.

Chapter 20 - 『Daydreamer』

「『EiOi–Ah–』?」

「Either talk or eat, Minato」

Having being said that from mom sitting in front of my mom, I silently, tried to finish my confrontation with the large-sized BLT sandwich.

「……You're going to select the method to eat, right. As expected of my son.」

This made by who is right now sighing, is one of my favorites even after I have reincarnated.

The food is the bacon from the meat of hunted demons, lettuce of more than 3 metre size, and cheese made from unknown ingredient, which mom doesn't tell me, but it's tasty so I don't care.It's important to get used to it.

Aside from that, on this seat of breakfast, I heard quite an interesting words from mom.

「……Fu, Thanks for the food. So what was it?」

「It's『Daydreamer』. When I was adventurer before, my friends called me that as a sort of sarcasm.」

Yeah, that's right, that's right.

『Daydreamer』

Changing into Kanji, it would mean『Visionary』or『Guy who dreams』, it should be.

『Daydream』=『day dream』, it means 『dreaming in day』or『fantasizing』.(TN: 『デイドリーム』=『day dream』author wrote in English)

In simple words, people call those people having naive thinking or unreal fantasies in their as『Person who dreams the whole day. a.k.a daydreamer』, something like that.

My mom was used to called that by her friends because she used to dream more, or rather, her thinking was naive or something like that.

She would give charity to a complete stranger, just on a whim,

or she would forgive the person who deceived her, on her mood,

Against a reckless opponent, she would also fight in a reckless way,

As an adventurer, no, as a person living in this world with magic and swords, her thinking is called as『naive』, and someone would pull carpet from under her feet. Her this kind of thinking was more in those times.

But, why is letting me know about it now.

When I ask, her reply is『You also have the same aura around yourself』

「Do you mean that i might end up as an adult with that『naive』thinking?」

「No, it feels different than that. In your case」

「?」

When I think a vague answer came back, Mom, from the other side of table bends forwards and looks into my face, my eyes.

Without paying attention to me being bewildered, her gaze gets poured into me.

「……Sometimes, I can't tell your mental age, exactly. Because from childhood, you were always somewhat adult-like, with strange things and your knowledge too.」

It can't be helped that I got startled.

Well, my interior age is 18(at the time of death)+15(now). I'm going to be 16 soon.

I don't know if she knew it or not, but her next words,

「Before it felt like you, yes, you had thoughts just like a child of 13 years old, but right now, it doesn't feel like your mental age is not growing from a child.」

「Not growing?」

「Yeah. Your knowledge part of mental age is like that of 15 year old child, but this is different. It feels like……that though your body is growing, but the inside is not growing from the childhood of yours.」

……This person is really sharp.

Now that she says it, I do have a feeling that I am living my childhood and right now too with the same mind which was mine before reincarnation. As a child that was adult thinking, but after becoming adult it feels child-like.

I think that some part of my body too was pulled in, so aside from my mental age of『18 years』, it's like my mind and spirit both got rejuvenated.

「It feels embarrassing like that, but……am I weird?」

「I think you are?」

「You actually agreed it!?」

I can't tell her the truth, so I feel a sense of guilty, and I tried acting like an oblivious child, the reply that came back was just too hurting. Unexpected crap.

「No, think about it yourself. You started research of original magic at the age of 4. After that with my help, by the age of 10, you created many other absurd magic like『Elemental Blood』and many others on the first try. This has already crossed prodigy and is only monster or oddball.」

……She said it coooommmplleetly straightforwardly, or rather without any mercy to her own small cute child.

「And that son is your child, what are you as a parent feeling?」

「Well, It's alright after all you're my child, so no problem」

No, even so what is it.

「No, Well I don't care about it that much. It's up to the person itself how he/she would grow up. The thing I have problem is with your look on world with the feeling of『Daydreamer』drifting from your mental age.」

「Look on world?」

「Yes. To me it feels like, you are thinking at as a child-like thing mentally……」

The things she talked after that made me realize she is more sharp, and knows more about me, even more than what she previously talked——

☆☆☆

「——Well, it's all a dream」

「……What are saying right after waking up」

Upon opening my eyes, above me was the ceiling I know. But I'm not familiar with it.

I still remember. After getting hit by Elk's strongest combo attack, my consciousness and rationality made a home-run and I fell down along with sofa.

But, seeing myself on bed means Elk carried me after that. I would have been heavy for her thin arms.

She even politely covered me with blanket. Was she waiting for me to wake up too?

「I just can't go back leaving an unconscious person alone. Ah, don't misunderstand? I was just……」

「Wait right there Elk. Don't say anymore or else I will once again get knocked out.」

「What do you mean?」

Elk makes a face saying, What is this guy trying to say.

You see, I'm saying it really late, but girls with 5 elements of『Disgusted eyes』,『Confidence』,『Glasses』,『Blushed face』and are『Tsundere』all are inside my strike zone.

You have 3 of them. And before I was beaten the hell out by adding the last 2 too. It resulted in me fainting.

No, it was my first time experiencing something like that.

To be honest, I was so much surprised that my heart didn't get time to beat rapidly. All happened in one second.

The moment she said『D-Don't misunderstand!』, it felt like my head got hit by a mallet and my consciousness went away.

I didn't experience something like this even during my training with mom. The world is really large, there are

many things that I don't know yet.

But, I felt like my head was once again getting hot, well leaving that aside, I speak words of gratitude to Elk. 『Now it's fine』 just that.

Hearing that Elk, like expected showed an expression of somewhat not agreeing, but without doing anything and saying, she this time left the room.

She finally left, feeling relieved, I decided to sleep today too.

It feels like whatever I do, it won't go well. Let's throw all the work for tomorrow and just calmly sleep.

☆☆☆

However some minutes later,

I confronted another problem.

I can't sleep.

There ain't even a speck of sleep inside my head. I can't possibly sleep.

On the contrary, it feels like the the sleep is running away because of that from before.

When I close my eyes, gradually this scene flashbacks behind my eyelids 『D-Don't misunderstand』, and is disturbing my sleep. Fucking hell.

And, I suddenly recall that I was about to go Red-Light District for healing my unsleepable mental state.

Hell with healing, it has gotten even worse. I can't possibly sleep like this.

But, I can't possibly do that too because of the reason before. Unless I find clothes other than this, I can't go there.

It won't help lying down here, so I go out in veranda for feeling night wind for a change of mood.

In this inn, the 『middle-sized rooms』 or above, haved veranda and terrace attached.

Then, I take out the chair too and sit on it while feeling the night wind.

「……Looks like you can't sleep?」

From above me, that voice descended.

Upon looking, from the window above—It's not veranda, the 『Window』 means it's a room of size of a business hotel room—, Elk had her face out and was looking down at me.

Huh, her room was above mine? I never knew it.

That Elk looks at me with disgusted eyes, maybe because my face is still somewhat red.

「Isn't this happening because you're trying hard to resist?」

「You still saying that」

「Even I am not convinced, you know. You too haven't felt, like that was enough for repaying the debt, right? ……And I don't know why, you even collapsed」

「No, I'm fine with that only」

Rather, I want to pay back the change for that.

「I see」

「And, Elk too doesn't want to do it because you want to, right?」

Even if she is an adventurer, she still is a girl. She won't think of giving her body voluntarily.

For her, within the things she could do, that might be the best way to repay the debt. Because I'm a male.

Then she,

「……It's not like that」

「Eh?」

What does that mean, huh?

I look up at those words, in Elk's eyes, along with disgusted glare, a clear and distinct consciousness was lingering.

To the extent that it seems like, she had no intention to sleep.

「……I can't explain it clearly, though」

It was 2 years ago, that Elk became an adventurer.

The trigger for it was, the loss of her mother who raised her through female labour.

For some reason, Elk who lived with only her mother, was raised without knowing her father.

Because Elk has never met the relatives of mother's side of family too, so she became an adventurer to be self-independent, and has lived alone till now.

Elk's mom was an adventurer in her younger days, she grained the ABC's required by adventurers, thinking if such a day would come, she told her the required techniques, and many more things,and she also gave the equipments for it, though they are second-hand.

It was also one of the reason, why she chose the route of adventurers.

However as if natural, she had to suffer lot of troubles.

She lived a daily life including beating the asses of demons. It had been a thorny path, not much hard to guess it.

Still, Elk without forgetting her daily efforts, had reached till here.

However, during the training and whatnot, it was she and her mom, after becoming independent became a solo-person, she didn't had any existence of a person she can call as 『Friend』

It's not like she was completely alone, she was able to meet new adventurers of same age while doing quests and all. Investigating together, taking up the quests, both parties mutually increased their skills while doing them.

However, for a person she could trust completely in that, she wouldn't shake her head vertically.

Just like I said before, the work of adventurers, is to not only fight demons, but also humans.

Going out in society one needs to depend on other people for living, there are also those with bad thinkings. Just like those bastards from before.

A friend you can trust in both public and private matters, is not easily found.

However, to an『Adventurer』who works along danger always, this thing is like fate. It's not like they can easily give their lives in hands of others without any trust.

It becomes even more difficult for a beginner. Thinking about that in itself is absurd.

Thinking that, Elk seemed to have persuaded herself. It would be good luck, if she were to find a person she can call friend within the next 10 or 20 years.

At that time, she met me.

「To be honest, I thought you were a person without having any way of thinking normally, when I first met you. You clothes too are eccentric, and your insides are even more inunderstandable.」

Sorry for looking evil, completely black from top to bottom.

「Of course, soon after, I learned about your caliber, and power. Let it be demons, or thieves you easily kicked their asses, you kept on being kind to me, an ungrateful person……you created chaos in my mind.」

I sense, somewhat tiredness and astonishment in her tone. Sigh is also included.

「You showed me and made me understand it completely. That this guy is even above extraordinary. It's even useless to compare you.」

「You don't have to speak about me as if I'm some sort of monster.」

「You are doing all the work, that one can't help but say it. Just where would be, a person who can be alive and pimping after confronting that big-serpent and fire magic?」

Ah, She has hit the right point. I can't refute.

「Just like that, even though you are completely different, even knowing that I'm a criminal, you still talked to me with friendly attitude……」

「Hmm~, Well, it wasn't a thing that I would worry about」

The moment I replied unintentionally,

I saw a somewhat sad expression on Elk's face. What happened?

「……Let's change the talk. Do I look sleepy?」

「Nope not at all. Why you ask?」

「I had been thinking from before. There is something in your that attitude」

My attitude? What the hell does that mean?

「You use words like『Just on whim』or『I just did because I wanted to』, right? Even at the time you saved me, I think you used it」

「? Was it like that?」

I don't remember it that much.

「At first I thought it comes from because of your strength that you are able to be calm and composed, but while the time I talked with you, it felt like it's something different」

「What」

「I couldn't understand it. You seem like you don't think at all, but easily see through the strangest points. You're absurdly strong, but you never show it with your words or actions. And more than anything……even with that attitude of interacting with others without creating a wall, it feels like somewhere on the essential part you are too much far」

「……? 」

Distance, huh……? I never thought about it like that.

「But, even with those factors, To me, you were the first adventurer I could easily talk to, easily befriend with, your strength and broad-mindess, was charming for me. Though it might be imprudent, but if possible I thought to become Minato's that kind『Partner』,the moment I thought it……I realized it.」

「Realized?」

「Yeah, I understood what caught me in your attitude」

Then, Elk changed her expression to a serious one, and looking in my eyes from above, she said.

「Minato, what if……you are seeing friends, enemies, each and everything with some sort of rose-colored glasses. As if……you're looking at some fantasy inside a picture book」

「……!!」

「……!!」

The moment I heard it,

The scene I saw in my dream just before,

I recalled the fact that mom also told me the same before.

☆☆☆

「If feels like sometimes, that you see the research of magic, or demons, nope, this whole world as some

sort of fantasy inside a picture book」

「Haaa?」

「I can feel it like you're looking at some story written inside some book and you're only the reader of it. And that to this world you are living in. It might be somewhat difficult question, but……haven't you ever realized it?」

「E-Even if you say it……err……」

It's only natural that I unintentionally replied.

because, it was the best to say it like that.

「Ah, that in itself is not much of a strange thing. It's something everyone thinks once in their life. I remember me thinking like that during my younger days. It will heal with time, don't worry about it.」

Hearing those words of mom, the word of『Reality Dissociation Syndrome』rose up from the vocabulary from my previous life.

Thinking the world one is living in as some fictitious story, and other than him/her all others are characters of story, in a sense that mistaking is a disease.

But, this isn't something like peculiar disease, just like mom said, every human once or twice suffers from it. Most suffer from it, during their childhood times without being able to distinct the reality from fictional world.

Naturally something virtual can never become real. Just like mom said, after living many years, the common sense will drill itself in their brains and it would heal by itself.

I don't think there would a middle-school student, whose future dream is to become shapeshifting Hero.

But for the current me, something like『Common Sense』doesn't work.

After all, after dying in accident, I am able to be『Reincarnated in another world』. And that to, in the world with magic and swords, just like fantasy novel world setting. It would be impossible to not be curious about it.

Particularly to me, who always read Web Novels with stories like this.

Due to that, maybe I unconsciously, saw this world with magic and swords as some game or novel from my previous life.

I didn't realize it myself……but if asked, that if didn't at all, it's difficult to actually nod at that time.

「Mom, your's was healed with time?」

「That's right. But in my case, it took a really long time to heal, only after I grew many years old……thanks to that, my friends attached that strange nickname to me」

「Is it by chance?」

「Yeah. It's『Daydreamer』. Including the fact, that I used to dream a lot.」

I see, certainly it's like『Daydreaming』.

So she is a daydreamer including many things like thinking the world as story. It worries me that they used this word for things not related to it's meaning, but yeah, they sure are great people!

「……If I'm that, will it heal?」

「It's fine, it will heal without fail! When time passes, it would have been healed before you know it. You'll find some trigger for that while living」

「Trigger? For example?」

「For example, the moment……you start seeing the true feelings of some other person with your eyes. The true and serious feelings or words of others towards a person, come without restraint and reason. It will come with an impact, that can easily break the shitty thin filter made from visionary delusions. There will be a day, you would meet a person like that」

「Why can't it be mom? You are seriously facing me……aren't you?」

「You're harsh. No, well, I'm always serious you know, but because you were with me since birth that our distance has closed too much. The chances of it healing are more with someone who is nearly like a stranger to you.」

☆☆☆

I see.

Recalling that, I now realize, what the fuck, I too am an exclusive limited versioned『Daydreamer』.

From yesterday till today.

At times Elk said『You're too kind!』, I replied with『It's just on whim』.

At the time she pointed out my attitude against demons, my answer『I can win after all』.

At that time, I didn't had any genuine intention behind it, but thinking upon it once again, I can understand it from a different perspective. How scary is that.

In a game, it's all up to the player's whim, to save whom, to move like what, to abandon whom, how to use the reward and all that crap.

And this world, has the environment clearly too much near to it. It's already apparent.

I do know how precious a person's life is, how valuable money, and how to reply to something with equal position.

But, because all that was completed with 1 punch or 1 kick, and this『Another World』is different from my previous world, that I forgot about it. Maybe from somewhere in my heart, I was still looking at this world through the filter.

That's why maybe, I had been looking at the dealing of money, heaps of raw materials of demons and the debt of life as『Just that much』.

To Elk it might have been the debt she couldn't possibly repay easily.

Hearing just one word, I got in thinking, maybe Elk is watching me, and is keeping quiet.

The moment my mind has been enlightened, she stares in my eyes and,

「Hey, Minato, I maybe don't have the right to ask this, even if I had it might be impudent to ask it, but……tell me now」

Elk said that, with the same serious eyes as before.

「Do you have a clue to what I just said? Wasn't it like, you looked at everything including me as just something.」

I do have a clue.

I was looking at them just something found anywhere.

Magic too, Demons too, City too, Dungeon too, Thieves too……probably Elk, too.

……There should be limits to being rude.

They are not the characters from some game or novel after all.

「Well, it might be because of your strength that you can see it with that POV, and so I don't have any reason to say anything on that matter.」

Stop speaking like that.

I didn't knew it just before, but I surely looked at all people with a rude attitude that knew no control.

「……That you, showed desire like a human, just before」

Suddenly Elk starts blushing, seems like she recalled the talk from before-Red-Light District and so on-. Eh, What does that mean?

「Ah, don't say it anymore……」

「At that time, I found a place that I can be in inside of you.」

Oi, Don't ignore the cute me.

「I'm repeating it, but……I seriously have no problem in becoming like that with you?」

「……For repaying the debt?」

「Maybe not only for that. If it was just for that, I would feel the conflict inside me, but I don't have anything like that」

She is now sending me her gaze, with more serious glint in her eyes.

Though her face is still red. But, for what reason. That blushing……it feels like it has some other meaning behind it.

「That's why Minato, if you have any clue to what I said right now……clear it away, and look at me one more time. No matter……what impression of me is reflected in your eyes at that time.」

「……」

In the words of Elk, I can feel resolution filled in them.

They are leaving the sound inside my head as if being engraved on them.

「If I looked like a hateful criminal in your eyes, at that time I will surrender myself and repent for my sins. At that time, with your testimony, I can be easily arrested. It's alright if I still look like an existence you don't care about. Rather, it is most befitting of me……but……if at that time……」

「A-At that time?」

「If you see me even a little more charming than before, then……」

Elk, as though she is embarrassed turn her gaze aside,

However, after re-thinking, once again looks back at me.

「At that time I don't want you to keep restraint. It might be good to become like that with you, no, I want to become an existence like that for you, it's not related to debt or adventurer or anything like that……」

One beat later,

「……I have fallen for your charm and ability……as a woman」

If someone said this to me in Japan, it would seem like a confession for love. I am strange to even think something absurd like that.

I don't know if Elk has any intention like that while saying me to look in her eyes.

But,

I can understand that they are her true feelings, her true intentions- And she can't bear the embarrassment, that her face is as read as apple-. Aside for the observing eye of an adventurer, even I can understand something like that……I think.

And,

There is no man whose heart would skip a beat having a girl say that in front of their face, probably.

Not good. My face is too hot. Probably really red too.

I fill my hand with『Ice』magic to cool my face……Hell, it doesn't work.

The outer surface is getting cooled, but inside my head, is still really hot.

Fuck that, every time I'm thinking about it, I can feel my heart putting it's legs on the gas pedal and is accelerating.

I can understand with intuition. I'm a goner now.

It’s not something like lust, but something more fundamental is getting aroused.

From Elk’s confession right now. (temporary name)

And that girl. After saying her words, is now looking at the night sky ignoring me.

That girl in Pajamas, is bathing in the moonlight falling on her from the window, with her face a little red…… and I am looking at her from below. HueHue, She’s so sexy.

Well then,

The words Elk just said are all her true feelings. Though I don’t know it completely, but it had her goodwill included.

And right now,

The feelings to reply to her feelings inside my heart are making a whirlpool……it feels like that.

Of course, I can’t deny the possibility of it being simple lust.

I can’t, but……

……This too is, my『True Feelings』

「……Err, Elk」

「……What?」

「……Will you……stay for tonight?」

On my words with a face even probably more redder than her’s, She stood there as if she froze.

But, as if she understood the reason the second later, her expression changed to somewhat bewildered and amazed.

However, retracting all those, after taking a deep breath,

「!? Wha……!?」

Know what? She ……in sleepwear jumped from the window above me.

I stand up from the chair in a hurry, and catch her falling body.

「Hey!? What are you trying to do, huh!? If you got injured……」

「It’s fine. I knew you would save me」

Elk says as such carelessly, while being in my arms-just like a princess carrying form-, but her face is even more redder than before.

I think about that things I am about to do from now on. Hey, I don’t have time to do that.

「Aside from that……weren’t you bad with things like this?」

「Well, that's right. but if you say like that, I can't help but back down, something like that……」

「Hmm~……Well, from your face color it doesn't look like you can wait till tomorrow.」

「……Just whose fault is it for making my face like this」

「Yes Yes. You don't have to worry, I will take the responsibility」

「AH, Yeah. Take care of……not that, Err, umm, D-Don't be rough……」

「……That's a girl's line, you idiot」

Her face is still blushing, but the smile on her face, was saying as though she would finally be able to do what she wanted.

Next Morning,

We in the same bed, overslept.

Chapter 21 – Rain Falls Ground Hardens and Much More

「……Beast」

「……Sorry」

From Elk with disgusted eyes while wearing pajamas……those cold words.

No, well……yeah, I overdid it.

Accepting Elk's kindness, the result of me working too hard, the burden and fatigue was too big.

She has lost her whole strength, let alone stand, she can't even move even a little.

The result, she is now bedridden. She can't move at all.

「Well I did say to do whatever you like, but……I never thought you would do to this extent.」

「……Yes, Sorry」

「Well, It's the truth that I don't have much stamina, it's a little bit disappointing……I understand that much. It was me who asked for it in the first place.」

「Yes……」

「……But it would be good if you had consideration about me……how can you still be fine after this?」

……Well, that's right……

As for the period of time, we started in the dead of night, and kept on it *Rub Rub* till the time it seemed like the sun is going to rise.

No, after all err, Elk was really good.

The feeling of embracing her small body was really good. In both meanings.

Though it's slender, but her muscles are toned, and feel good on embracing.

Moreover, he innocent reaction on bed was just too great.

And in addition, the two patterns of enjoying that reaction, with glasses or without glasses, oh wow……Ah, no, that is somewhat different.

Anyhow, after drowning in the charm of Elk, I got in high spirits.

It's result, the current situation.

In truth, this much fatigue might take 3 days to recover from. I know it because I remember how much wrecked her.

But, I did the after-care on that.

「But, the ointment from before, really worked. Most of the pain has gone」

Just like Elk, who is saying while touching her hips, I rubbed the ointment specially made by mom, which I stole.

The ointment works wonders, unlike the things sold in market, the muscular pain and all instantly disappears, even if before noon she isn't able to return to her usual form, she would be able to move.

By tomorrow, she would most probably be completely fine.

By the way, there was a paper patch on the lid of the ointment phial, on that,

『I pray it won't be used for some particular reason by a girl. Girls are delicate, take care of them』

……These grateful words were written by mom.

I'm sorry, I read it too late.

「Sigh……You seem more decent that what I had thought, aren't you?」

「I can't say anything……」

「Well, It's alright. But still, to worry about those things too of her own son……you're truly gifted」

Though Elk is praising mom, it also means『You are receiving favors to this extent from your parents, have shame, idiot』, not like I can refute.

「I'm sorry for saying all that yesterday, but this time I agree with your mom. I'm fine with it, but if you don't remember to be gentle with girls……then it would be problem for girls you do it with in future」

「Sorry, yeah, Forgive me. But you were so cute……」

「F-For saying that to me……as a woman I am happy……」

「That's why, I accidentaly remembered my first……with mom and got in high spirits……」

「……Eh?」

「……Ah」

Huuuh, just what the fucking shit hell I just said?

It's scary to recall it but, let's go back 5 seconds before.

『That's why, I accidentaly remembered my first……with mom and got in high spirits……』

My tongue slippppeeeeeeddddddddd!!?

I look at Elk's dumbfounded appearance.

However, her eyes are changing to from disgusted eyes to the eyes with cold temperature, as if saying『This guy is……』, Wha, Wait!

「Minato, you……」

「W, Wa-Wait Elk! It's different! It's a misunderstanding! No, in a way, it's not……No it really is a misunderstanding! Listen! Listen to me……」

「No, Alright I got it! I really got it! Now that I got it, for the time being get 3 metres away from me right now」

She doesn't understand! She definitely didn't get it.

Listen to that it's an misunderstanding while it's not, Hey wtf am I even speaking from before. Calm down me……no,it's impossible.

「I knew you were not normal, but to that extent……」

「No it is! Misunderstanding, it's different! It's completely fine!」

「No, what is alright?」

「It was only once!」

「It's enough to get away from me!!」

SFX: ——*Bafuuu*

A pillow came flying. Huh, did I do say something wrong?

「It's the problem before it! I can't believe it too……d-don't tell me, you assaulted a mom that can't turn down her child's request? No, or rather, you forcibly hold your mom with that strong physical strength and……」

「It's different! I did it definitely did it, or rather, the one who was desiring, err I mean, the one who assaulted me was mom」

「What is with that!? Just what is wrong with your family!?」

「I can't possibly win against mom in physical strength」

「Really what is your family!?」

I somehow feel like Elk's fatigue is in ultra-high speed increasing.

She is hearing about my little, no, completely special family, so it's natural for her to act like this.

「Sigh. I don't care anymore. I don't care, but when will you feel better after picking my nerves. You defeat demons bare-handed, blades can't cut you, You won't burn inside fire, Acid can't melt you, you already have a lot of things……」

Elk with her increased tired feeling,

murmured quietly.

For her, it might be be as a joke or nothing important at all,

or just a monologue, but

「Are you really, human, huh」

……

「Do I look like one?」

「Eh?」

☆☆☆

「Succ-ubus……!?」

I told her.

Without concealing anything, everything.

No, I didn't tell her things like previous life or reincarnation, neither the unnecessary things like, the secret of my re-birth and much more.

Even so, I clearly, explained that I am a man who can use Succubus's power due to sudden『Mutation』.

No, well, I seriously thought if it was good to tell her,

She thought of me as just a fellow adventurer who can help her with investigating or

I'm just a man she spent 1 night with. Nothing else.

If our relation was just like the above examples, then I probably wouldn't have told her anything.

Because my birthplace and present condition is not normal, it's only taking on risks by telling it to others. In my case it is.

……But,

strangely, I didn't want to hide it from Elk.

It might be me thinking deeply, but that night –aside from what I did–, we both communicated while revealing our true feelings.

Though she invited me first, in the end it ended up as me wanting it, and she accepted my wish.

It's the result of our true feelings talking together……So I'm not in the wrong.

To her, who even entrusted herself to me because she trusted me, I didn't want to hide it from her.

No, well, it might only be self-satisfaction, but you see self-satisfaction is an important thing of life? If you are『Satisfied and confident in yourself』, then you will without a doubt fall and die in a ditch.

And then,

In future, I would also not like it to hide the truth from her, while having fun.

She is quite sharp, it would eventually be exposed.

That Elk, who heard the truth is right now frozen stiff from the shock of bitter truth.

「In other words, you are『Demi-human』……or are you not a『Human』?」

「No well, I can classified as『Human』, yeah most probably? I can use the power of succubus due to the mutation, just that much」

「I don't think it's a talk you can finish with『Just that much』, is it true……」

Maybe she『Accepted』the fact, Elk nodded while sighing.

To be honest, at this point, though I can expect her to keep it as a secret, but I can't expect for her to talk to me normally, she would look at me strange eyes……I thought it right now. But it was me who said it.

Even so, I didn't want to hide it, so I talked about it.

And, Elk's reply,

「I don't really care about this much?」

「Eh, Really」

「Really」

This development went far above my expectations.

No, no matter……how many demi-human species like Elves and Dwarves (not like I have met them yet) are, but strange oddities inside them, people like me, aren't accepted so easily, I seriously thought that.

Then,

「It's not like I don't care about it at all, but still, it won't change my evaluation of you」

She tells me that.

「Certainly, it's not normal, but it's nothing to be amazed of. I already know what sort of person you are. Though you're diligent you look stupid, You're kind but still have guts of steel, You're strong, have kind and warm heart……are rough at nights, and just have power different from normal people……」

She said all in one breath.

She looked into my eyes,

「……You are just a rookie adventurer, I can trust」

and said as such.

Ah, how should I say it, Yeah, I'm honestly happy.

Her words were mostly joke on me, but it can't be changed that I'm not a pure『Human』.

Due to that reason, I have resolution to face some discomfort after coming out in this society(?). Mom was

also worried about it.

That's why, I'm happy that she can still clearly speak『I can trust』to me.

……Yean, truly……

「……I……」

「？」

「I'm really happy, that Elk is my first friend after getting out for journey.」

「……!?Y-You……! can speak those embarrassing things, easily!」

SFX: ——*Bafuu!*

Once again Pillow missile. Why?

「……Should I also add『Thick-headed (TN: DT)』in the evaluation of yours」

「haaa?」

「Nothing at all」

Elk having her face slightly red (it seemed like that), she once again lies down.

I don't know exactly, but if it's nothing bad, no problem.

Then, as though she suddenly remembered it while still having red face,

「No that I think about it, Minato, do you remember what you said yesterday」

「Hm?」

Yesterday? By yesterday……does she mean that?

「I-It's late, but are you fine……wanting to be in a team with someone like me?」

to the shy Elk, yesterday's night, I proposed this offer to her.

☆☆☆

Well then, now for recap of Elk's talk from some time before,

the adventurers, not all are people that can be trusted. There are more people, who gave their selfish desires the priority, make use of others, and try to kick down other people.

Furthermore, to a girl like Elk, it is a more serious problem.

In that case, then either go with someone you really trust, or go in dungeon alone, but it's not like everything happens so easily in life.

That person who can be『Trusted』is not present in the first place, it is troublesome to find one too, and there are not many people who try to go in dungeons alone.

For various reasons, a partner is essential for adventurers.

Like needing a person who can cover a person with low fighting ability, or someone who has knowledge and skills that one doesn't……there is no end to the reasons.

Furthermore, I completely know that I lack common sense. And so for filling up my bad areas, I thought to have a partner for myself.

Therefore, the mission of getting a person『Who can be trusted』even if it takes time, is one of the the most important ones……

Based on that, I asked Elk to make a team with me.

Hearing that, Elk was perplexed as though saying『Insane?』.

No, leaving aside the fact that it should be『Seriously?』,

Fighting strength, courage, agility, and assets too, no matter how you see it, are greatly inferior to mine.

Frankly put, it would only be a hindrance.

She said 'I'm happy that you trust me' but, will someone like you who is not in the realm of normal, be happy to form a team with some like me.

It's obvious that there will troubles in future, still you want to form a team.

……I replied to those inquires in……0.5 seconds.

『I don't wanna if it's not Elk』

Our last 3 days we lived together, were quite deep.

Elk had her life saved by me, her problems too were cleared by me,

and I being me, was absolutely devoid of any knowlegde, and got her teaching me.

There was also the matter with the thieves, I can't say, that our relation was without any problems, but in the end, it ended up with a good bond forming.

Only than I got to know that Elk is strict to herself, her sense of responsibility is also strong, and I am the one she trusts.

Finally, last night we crossed the line.

Though it had only been only 3 days since we met, but they were enough for us to understand each other.

Furthermore, this is only an intuition, but I don't feel like I will meet a person who will be like Elk and trust me like her.

This is fate, it's not like I want to used some cliched pick-up line, but it's finally an opportunity, why let it go?

That's why, I clearly said that I don't have a problem with you.

Then, Elk who is still getting red, gave me the answer I had been waiting for the most.

SFX: Gashiii

We both exchanged handshakes, instead of many words.

「Err, I can't explain it properly, but……take care of me from now on, Minato」

「It's good enough with that much. You're welcome, Elk!」

And well,

With all the turns and twists, on the 3rd day after leaving home.

I, Minato Quadrille, made……my first partner ever.

Well then, where would I go with her and what adventures are waiting for us……

Chapter 22 – The True Identity of Sly Fox

Some days after the day of big-serpent's death,

We were invited to come to the building of the『Malras Association』.

As though, she took our circumstances into consideration, Okami-san, no I mean Noel-san, prepared a carriage for us.

Seeing it standing outside the inn, it seemed more flashy than anything, but all doubts about getting in, disappeared, when I found out that the carriage is fast and nobody would stop it.

Inside the carriage, I had free time, so I tried to talk to Elk about something that I suddenly remembered.

「Now that I think about it, I forgot to ask you」

「What?」

「Elk, why did you have the debt for? You are economist and won't do something harsh as that, or so I heard from Tanya-chan」

I only asked her due to my curiousity, if she had doesn't want to say, I won't ask.

Then, Elk after hesitating a bit……

「……I will tell. It's not something that needs to be kept as secret……」

I have already heard, Elk's mom, was an adventurer in past.

Even though, she was only a normal adventurer, not like some legendary hero or something like that which only happens in Web Novels.

And her mom, was the so-called single mother.

Elk doesn't know why she didn't have her father.

After giving birth to Elk, her mom retired from being an adventurer and raised her by being a staff member at the guild.

In the case of an somewhat famous adventurer changing jobs to Staff member of the Guild, then they can keep on getting the benefits of the Guild Card. Elk's mom chose this route.

Like that, the mom and daughter lived a modest yet happy life.

However, some years ago, her mom left the world because of a disease.

Recovering from grief, Elk was using the knowledge and skills needed for adventurers and so decided to become an adventurer herself.

But, during the time she lived with her mom, there was a time when their livelihood was in danger, at that

time her mom sold her favorite high-class equipment she used in her adventurer days, and somehow pulled through the dilemma.

Its name is『Crystal Dagger』. It's an dagger, with its blade made of hard crystal.

Elk, found it some days ago in the shop.

It's quality had fallen quite a bit, but its price was not that high too, even though, that price was something Elk, a rookie adventurer, can never get easily.

Even so, she wanted to get back the only memento of her mother, she desperately tried everything, like paying in installments or bargaining.

Her desperation was quite showing, and it attracted them to her.

After getting the memento of her mother she felt relief, but now she fell in a situation she would lose everything, not only the dagger.

Agitated, she took a loan, without even checking the contract, and successfully fell in the trap of the shopkeeper and the moneylender.

「Geez, saying it's for mom and what not, even mom might be laughing at that」

While speaking in a masochistic tone, Elk takes out something from her bag.

In her hand, is the dagger which just came up in the talk before.

It's haft and scabbard are of old metal, it gives out the complete feel of an old-fashioned thing.

Elk, while looking at it with distant eyes filled with nostalgia,

「I just wanted to get this dagger which mom used back in her younger days. It's not like mom is going to come back or anything is going to change……I can't explain it clearly. It's result, this, isn't it laughable」

「Hee~……」

「Right now, even the price upon this dagger seems suspicious to me. That shop seemed like it deals with stolen goods too. I'm really an idiot」

Told me that in a strange way.

……Err, Can I ask you to stop for a bit?

That dagger, kind of is piquing my interest.

「……Hey, Elk」

「? What, Minato?」

「Can you show me that? Especially the blade part」

「? I don't really mind……but why?」

Elk gives me the dagger while having a『?』floating above her head.

After taking it, I took out the blade from scabbard.

The thing that appeared, is an opaque crystal blade with little shine.

Indeed, like this it's not strange for it to be of low price.

At the very least, on its appearance, it won't look something valuable.

……That's why they didn't knew it.

Neither the corrupt merchant, neither the shopkeeper and nor Elk.

They didn't knew that it's not only some normal crystal dagger.

「Elk, how much did you pay for it?」

「……I don't want to recall, but 1 gold coin. Thinking on it now, it was a rip-off」

I see, 1 gold coin. So it means 1 million Japanese Yen.

「You did some good shopping there, Elk」

「……It's the first time you said something sarcastic. But you don't have the right to complain」

「No, I'm not being sarcastic. Or rather, was your mom, during her adventurer days, a really famous adventurer?」

「? What do you mean?」

I see, You don't know about it.

You don't know what this……crystal dagger is.

But, I know.

That this ain't some damned normal dagger, it's the『Magic Item』which mom told me about before.

Moreover……it's one of the weapons that mom classified as『Rarely found in dungeons only』. It's appearance and real matter don't match up, it's a fucking great thing.

The moment I thought to tell her, the carriage stopped with a shake.

A second later, a voice comes from outside.

「Thank you for coming. You're Minato-sama and Elk-sama, right? I have been informed by Irene-sama already, please head this way」

Outside the carriage, a butler-like-middle-aged-man said as such while bowing.

Oh……I'll tell her later, for the time being let's get out.

☆☆☆

「Sorry for the wait. Thank you for coming here today, Elk-han and Minato-han please have fun」

Noel-san, came into the drawing room, bows, and sits on the sofa in the position as though she is interviewing us.

She is holding various documents for today's agenda in her hands, which is the reason for our visit, the『Procedures』.

However, when I thought it will just end like this, at that exact moment, a person came inside from the door, that I was thought to be closed.

He is a man who has the atmosphere different from that of an merchant, wearing some sort of uniform-like clothes.

Although he is thin, but has solid body build and has a saber hanging from his waist.

His grizzled hair and moustache bringing out a dandyism feeling, a perfect match.

「You're Elk Caucus-dono and Minato Quadrille-dono, right. I'm Lando, the secretary of the garrison headquarters in Volka. I'm the Vice-Captain's Assistant」

He too, tried to sit on the sofa like Noel-san quickly, but only after introducing himself to us.

Hearing the words Garrison Headquarters -The lower branch of Army, something like Police in this world- , Elk got startled, but soon enough straighten her back and face Lando-san by herself.

The scene easily tells her resolution.

As though she confirmed it, Noel-san opens her mouth.

「Well, let's get started. Lando-han, I leave the records and documents to you.」

☆☆☆

Briefly put, the reason Elk has come here today is to complete the detailed procedures so as to not have future troubles with the debt incurred due to those damned moneylenders and to tell everything she knows about the kidnappers.

As for former, it looks like she learnt from her mistakes. She read the documents prepared by Noel-san from top to bottom without leaving any word. Honestly, it took a lot of time.

But when we started our work after that, it got faster. Elk and Noel-san signed and stamped on many documents, and Noel-san put them in an envelope after checking them.

According to Elk, from hereon there won't be any troubles related to this anymore. I see, though I didn't understand a bit, but it looks like the procedures are all complete without any problems.

Next, the 2nd work, the information.

Lando-san, the so-called『Secretary』has come here to clearly record the information.

He keeps on writing Elk's each and every word, without any mistakes.

After writing everything, he groaned for a bit『Erm』, but it ended up with nothing, just like what happened with Noel-san a few days ago.

Though they would use her testimony, but due to lack of evidence it ended up as being non-prosecuted.

It's not decided right here and now, but it's the most reasonable thing that might happen. Just like Noel-san said, due to their work being busy, they won't cut up personnel and time for just『Attempted Crimes』.

The moment the conclusion was made, Lando-san left.

With this, finally, this time truly, this uproar is dealt with.

However, both me and Elk are waiting without going back.

It's because the thing Noel-san said before『Some Personal Business』, I don't even know the contents of it.

She isn't showing any hostility, so it's not like there is a trap or something dangerous, but it isn't good to be not on guard.

After all, the time we first met……I was in my combat stance, with even more enhanced sensing abilities than normal, but let alone her approach, I couldn't even sense her spectating us from far.

「Well then, now is the talk with Minato-han」

「Sigh. What might the business be? Isn't that time our first meeting? If I'm called for something else, then I can't seem to find anything.」

「Yeah, don't worry, it's nothing troublesome. Just, I have something to talk about and hand over something to you」

Saying that Noel-san puts her hand inside the sleeve of kimono, and moves as though she is searching something

And, the thing in her hand which came out some seconds after was,

「Yes, take it as a sign of friendship. Take it?」

(……Commuter Pass Case)

……something like that I know.

It's something like the commuter case container that is used in automatic turnstiles of a station, or rather it is something that really looks like it.

It's painted in black and silver, though it's thin and small, but it looks sturdy and profound.

But, even so, I can't come up for what am I going to use it in this world with no magnetic cards or automatic turnstiles ……Hm? Card?

「Is it something, you put the guild card inside?」

「Good Insight~. However, not any card can be put in it. This case itself has lot of special privileges, so you won't have to take out the card at guild every time.」

「「Privileges?」」

Elk and mine voices resounded in harmony.

At that, as though she was waiting for it a long time, Noel-san starts her explanation.

「Right. You get discounts at inns, weapon shops and shopping with just like the guild card, right? Showing the guild card inside this case, you'll get more discounts in shops, you can get in VIP areas, and can purchase the commodities from secret lists, that are not used publicly」

「Hm……」

But of course, it only works on legal commodities, hearing all that, I feel impressed. Just by having this, I can have less burden on my wallet, and expand my shopping area.

But at the same time, this is quite damned suspicious.

「Err, Why would you give me, someone who you just met recently, something that good? From what I have heard, it seems like a quite good, no, extremely good item」

In my previous world, it would be something like membership privileges only for celebrities.

On the civilization levels, this extraordinary thing (It might have an unexpected twist, like it can used on some shops only), can't be easily given to just anyone.

Upon looking sideways, Elk also has the same opinion. Charming, no more than that, it's feels like her glare is getting sharp and the air around her getting vigilant. Lovely.

The air inside the drawing room, has shifted from gaining and not gaining something to what is she planning behind it.

「Well, it's only natural to be vigilant. In truth, this can't be bought with even 100 gold coins」

「With that my vigilance levels are already 100 times more powerful」

100 Gold Coins!

Almost 100 million Yen!? Ah, No, it won't suffice with that, huh

There ain't no damn fucking way I get that for free. There definitely some ulterior motives. It would be strange if there are no ulterior motives.

Or rather, fuck all that, In the first place, this isn't something you give to someone.

But, what did I do to demand that, I, a rookie adventurer, get this superb thing? No fricking clue at all.

Maybe hiring me as bodyguard……no, can't see that happen. It's only recently that i met her. It's dangerous to hire some guy with unknown birth.

In that case, she wants something of my belonging?

These gauntlets or shin guards? Or this scarf? Belt?

The thing, which seems most likely to be her im is『Necromicon』,maybe? It's a magical grimoire smelling dangerous! all the time, the contents written are also quite advanced.

When I think that,

Noel-san suddenly laughs *Kukuku* for some reason.

「Ah, Sorry. Your face looked same as that person」

「? Face?」

「Yeah, to your mother's. Her face when thinking, perfectly matches yours」

「!? You know my mom!?」

That freaked me out. Totally unexpected words. She knows about my mom too.

Can she be aquaintance of mom? Friend? And so, she is giving me this good item as a present, because I'm her friend's son.

No, she might have something to do with mom.

She has many awesome things after all. The money is a given, but the pet she has, and many magic items which seem like a joke and much more she has.

And, the next words fired at me and Elk who too is getting nervous, are……

「No, nothing like acquaintance or anything. She too, is my mom」

Earth-shattering unexpected freaking truths.

「What!?」

I shout out forgetting my position and politeness. But It can't be helped, I think.

The bombshell announcement she just made, is a bomb which is not a bomb.

……calm down, I'm not making any sense.

Err, Just what did this person say!?

Let's see…… 『She too is my mom』 must mean, that she too is born from her, right?

I-In other words, this Noel-san and my relation is, ……

「I have made you wait a long time, once again I will do self-introduction. I'm Noel Co Malras. This is my father side surname, the mother side surname would be Quadrille. I'm the fourth-born daughter of Lilyn Quadrille, inevitably, I'm your elder sister, my lil brother♪」

☆☆☆

No, Well, I did know?

I did know that I have some elder brothers and sisters whose name and face I don't even know about?

Even so, preparing the heart is needed before meeting them, right?

However, there's no helping now, so let's sort the situation.

Looks like……the fact that this person Noel Co Malras is really my mom's daughter and my elder sister.

No, I did not believe her at first, but she had predicted it, so she asked for a quiz with questions related to mom which only people closely related to her would know, and she answered all correctly which cleared my doubts.

The thing that convinced me more was, one letter she took out.

And, the golden shining wings enclosed in the letter sealed with magic beeswax.

The moment I saw, it I perceived the familiar smell of magical power and the wings appearance.

After taking in my hands, I was convinced.

This was the wings of『Stork』……the bird with golden wings bought by mom as a pet.

In the house of mm, there were many pets.

One of them is『Stork』. A giant golden bird of 2 metres width when wings spread out. It is near to Phoenix.

He had completely golden feathers and beak, and was the head of all pets who destroyed the insides of house while using it as a pasture land.

Moreover naturally, he was not only just some bird, but a great demon……The details about it and other pets, let's leave them for a later date.

Anyhow……judging from the scent of magical power and it's appearance, no doubt, it's his.

I can smell the scent of Stork and Mom both. So she enclosed this feather as a proof of evidence at required times.

Incidentally, there can't be a case that she picked them up somewhere while he was flapping his wings.

I don't know what the reason for this is, but unless the person himself(bird himself), Stork, takes out the wings, they would turn into beds of golden light and disappear.

And, inside the letter enclosed in the envelope,

『This fox-eared girl here is, you're older-sister, 4th from above you. Get along with her』

was that written in mom's handwriting.

Aside from the sentence being somewhat childish, this too made me convinced.

Looks like Noel-san really is my sister.

And this letter was delivered by Stork some days before, mom asked her to help me, who would soon be reaching the city -while not being overprotective- in another letter, and told in that to use this letter for the proof.

……So in other words, Noel-san, no, Noel-neesan prepared this more than 100 gold coins worth of thing, for encouraging her brother.

No, still I can't believe it. Even if she is a relative, I can trust without batting an eye.

「You're sharp. Even I won't give something more than 100 gold coins for no reason to my own brother, it takes 1 month to be made. I didn't had any pre-made ones too.」

「Eh? Then, this is……」

1 month ago means, me still remaining in that house.

So, this is not a pass made specially for me……

「Frankly put. This was ordered by that idiot who got thrown in the prison some days ago. He must've thought of using this for shady business. It's good that he got arrested quickly.」

That idiot, you say……Ah, that guy who threw ELk in debt cycle.

Right now, he is waiting for trial while healing his snapped muscles body, resulted by me, but it would most likely be death penalty, or so the human rumours reception antenna, Tanya-chan was saying.

He was doing slave trading and illegal dealings, so it's the perfect reward for him.

Furthermore, the trials come faster in this world.

At the fastest, it would be 1 day later for judgement, moreover, depending on charges the privilege of appealing to higher courts can be retained. As expected of Swords & Magic Filled World.

Most probably, by the start of next month, most of his subordinates wouldn't be present in this world.

I indirectly drove them away, in other words killed them……this strange ethical values, have already been reformed during the time I lived with mom in Western-Style house. I have did the dealing of life against thieves as opponents, many times.

Still, I most of times, hold back my power and make others faint, and let them be judged by law, maybe the traces of previous life's ethics are still remaining.

……The talk got derailed.

This pass ordered by that mom for unknown reasons reached here, the orderer, is persistent but most probably will be saying goodbye~ to this world next month. So it's unnecessary,huh.

Even so,due to this pass's importance and rarity, it is prohibited for it to be stored in the『Inventory』. If there is no one to buy it, then it would be disposed of.

At that point, I -A relative, she could trust due to Mom's certified documents- appeared, so she thought to give it to me, as a present for me becoming an adventurer.

……Though she explained it, but it still feels too simple.

「Umm, will it be alright? If a rookie adventurer like me get something like this」

「It's fine, It's fine? I have gotten written proof that I can『Trust you』and……」

Noel-san, makes a fleeting glance towards Elk, sitting besides me.

「It will also be as an apology towards Elk-chan, who is getting intimate with Minato-han. Just take it from a stupid Sister. But if it's used for evil purposes, I'm gonna take it back」

「Sigh……Then, I'll take up that offer」

And well, that's how, I got a ultra-high class item of more than 100 gold coins, called as『Black Pass』.

Having my area of activities expanded, and getting various special privileges, my purse has gotten healthier.

And……I once again gained one more『Black』thing. Is this some sort of karma or fate?

She said that by putting the guild card inside the case, the『Owner Authentication』would be complete, so I did as she said.

When I did, the pass twice as big as guild card, shrank in size like the vacuum futon storage pack while having the designs it became the same size as that of card.

Rather than saying it looked like a card inserted in case, it became like a card decorated with seals and stickers. But, there isn't any roughness on the surface neither did it create any difference in weight.

There isn't any problem in the information browsing area too. Just like Noel-san said, it can be used normally.

I already get an awesome item, after becoming an adventurer just some days before, Yeah I'm just a great existence.

「Don't worry about it much. In the first place, this『Pass Case』, does has trouble getting it requested, but with some money no obstacles will come. Many nobles of big persons have them made for their families with the abuse of their authorities.」

「Eh? Is that so?」

「Yeah. Don't be conceited, but take it without any problem. Well the things those people took was mostly silver or gold only」

「Silver? Gold?」

「Based on Pass's design and color, the serviec you get changes. Gold is above Silver, and Platinum is above Gold like that. Just like that the expiration date too is increased.」

I see, easy to understand.

So, this pass got an expiration date.

Well there ain't something like a commuter pass that works for eternity, so it's only normal and appropriate.

Huh? This is『Black』……what would this mean?

「The person with『Black Pass』get's indefinite service. Feel free to use till the day you die.」

「……It would be better to not show it off, right?」

「Well, yeah right」

What the freaking shit you giving me for your ex-post-facto approval.

「Iya~, you really saved me. I can't keep up with the safeguarding of this thing. Before it got authenticated, many people tried to buy it saying『Sell it to me』and some even tried to steal. It's good that you are taking it away from me」

Her real intentions are gushing out, should I retort here?

No, well, it's a fact that I would take many favors from her in future, so let's bear with it.

The beautiful fox girl with cream coloured hair and fox ears -She only looks somewhat older than me, but what is her real age?- reveals a smile while her two canines peek out of her mouth. Well, it's cute, let's see it.

☆☆☆

After that, I took a small explanation on how to use the『Pass』, and then she would have to take a leave by saying that her work was calling.

Even though she looks like a little girl, she is at the top of a big association, no wonder she is busy.

When we were returning, Noel-san called out as though she remembered something.

「Ah Minato, everything today ended in a haste, but normally I'm doing the work of the association perfectly, so do come when you need something? I can do anything from wholesale of medicines to the making of custom-made equipments」

Maybe she understood our mutual relation of siblings, she has changed calling me『Minato-han』to『Minato』and told me that.

I see so that's how it is? Then I will take favors from you in future.

After all, the association was certified by mom, and the manager is my sister(I just knew it today). I had thought of finding a new weapon shop that I become a regular at, but unexpectedly there was a godsend for me.

Or rather, I have something I am thinking about right now, maybe, I need to take favors from her pretty soon.

This and, this, and that too……I will come after I have them all.

「And」

And? Noel-neesan

「If you're going to live as an adventurer, then you will travel various places around the world. Maybe you will meet other brothers and sisters of yours at those places. At that time, rely on me without any hesitation! Though there are siblings with bad and good personalities, but in the end they're all siblings」

When she said something filled with warmth, I suddenly noticed it,

……Now that I think about it,

「I have one thing to ask, Noel-neesan」

「Hm?」

「I had thinking of asking from a long time before, but……Just how many brothers and sisters do I have above me?」

Mom only told I had many siblings during the time at home, nothing more.

I don't think it's something you can forget. But what if she gave birth to many that she can't count now…… Yea~h……

But, I recall Noel-neesan introducing herself as『4th daughter』some minutes ago.

And she just said that『Maybe you will meet other brothers and sisters of yours at those places』.

I can somewhat guess, that there are many brothers and sisters I have.

In that case, is it something like large family of 5 men and 6 girls? Yeah, it's my mom were talking about, nothing's' impossible.

「Ah, didn't mom told you? If I am not mistaken, including you, it would be err……」

No, it's not really bad to have a family that can make a complete baseball team……let's be prepared.

She is a『Succubus』after all, so it's natural for that field of work to be more, so how many brother and sisters above me do I have……

「11 man and 15 woman, in total 26 siblings. Minato, you should be the youngest」

I was naive.

I was naive to the point, of a dinner dish made with sugar and brown sugar put in it thinking they were salt and pepper.

Let alone a single soccer team, with this number there can be two teams with 2 substitutes for every player, truly unexpected…….

☆☆☆

The black colored carriage, once again travelled through the road taking Minato and Elk back to inn.

Noel waved her hands humbly while seeing off the carriage. The moment carriage disappeared in the corner of road, she ran quickly back to her room.

And, the moment she closed the door behind her with a slam,

From her face……the smile vanished.

Though it didn't change her cute facial looks. However from her face, was coming a really sharp feeling of

intimidation, rather than the gentle feelings from some time before.

It's not that she narrowed her eyes, neither did she frown, but the glint in her eye was enough to even make an amateur realize that she's not an ordinary person.

Then, she issued an order to her secretary, who had been waiting for long.

With a short『Yes』the secretary responded, walked into the next room, and came back soon enough.

The secretary was holding a big transparent tablet made of crystal.

If Minato could see this scene, he would've gotten the impression of the terminal screen of an HDTV taken out.

After putting the tablet on the large table in the centre of the room, Noel walks up to it, mumbles a few words, and puts a『Card』on it.

This『Card』was something……she retrieved before coming here.

When she does, some scribbling……some sort of information appears on it as though it were an LCD.

Noel kept silent seeing it, after a while, she opened her mouth little by little.

「……Geez, it's nothing new that mom has no integrity. But this time she has made something really great」

「Is it about Minato-dono?」

「That's right. When I got the letter from mom recently……2 months ago, I couldn't think what it meant, but after seeing it with my eyes, I can now truly understand. What is that monster」

Remembering, the face of youngest brother she was dealing with a smile, she faintly smiles and says as such.

The thing that appeared on the crystal tablet was, the simplified yet detailed observation details of Minato's internal and external magical power.

The one who changed that observation into data was, the observation and receiver device placed beforehand, in the room next to this one. The thing that was needed to read the information, was the『Card』from before.

The『Card』makes it possible to carry the collected information, and is used as an intermediary for reading the information through the crystal tablet.

……Furthermore,

She had inserted a magic item for gaining even more detailed information, into the『Black Pass』she gave to Minato before.

Noel who had gained simplified information through those two steps from before and was astonished at the information shown on the tablet.

She had given him the『Pass』with the intention of『Observation』……correction『Surveillance』.

Naturally, this pass wasn't ordered by the fraud criminal, but Noel herself ordered it, as it was written it the letter which also had the fees for it, 300 gold.

Including the line that she got the letter from Lilyn some days ago, it's all a big big lie.

It wasn't a normal pass……it has the device for observing the magical power, and many other devices inserted into it. There are not more than 2 of its kind in this world, a specially custom-made product. That was, the『Pass』from before.

The secretary who was standing besides her calls out to Noel who was looking at the information gathered through it with a serious face.

「How was he? How did Minato-dono seem to you Noel-sama?」

「……I had seen him during the fight before……he is good enough in regards to battle powers to get passing marks for that.

He wouldn't lose even if the people were ten times more, it won't change anything to him. The so-called big-serpent he killed, was also most probably done in easily, completely different from the rumours.」

Her face changes to somewhat unpleasant expression,

「The evaluation for his fighting style and personality is put on hold for a while」

「Any problems?」

「Any, lot of problems. Ah, right now that was not a joke?」

「I know, the, the problem might be? Is it the fighting skills and magic he use?

May i know, what the problem might be?」

「……No, there isn't any problem in that place. His magic and skills are both first class products……but, before that, his『Stance』in itself is kinda……」

Noel heaves a sigh*haa*, takes her eyes off the crystal tablet and sits on sofa besides her.

There isn't any frown on her brows, but a shadow is descending/ casted on them.

「Simply, he has lot of self-confidence in the strength of his body. He doesn't dodge the attacks of enemies, and take them head on, he has showed that『performance』in fights. That and, he did something similar in the『Labyrinth』too」

「I see……that is a problem. Agility and Certainty is need when fighting the demons. Sometimes, it's need to be fighting with cold-heart without playing. If someone were to neglect that and take their strength for granted……」

「Hm? Ah, no, I didn't mean it like that」

「Yes?」

To Noel's intervention the secretary replied with curious look. As though saying, where did I get wrong, that.

「He's not taking his strength for granted, and neither making mistakes in his judgement? Well, it's not he is always on guard, he infers the magical power of opponent and magic too, then only does he do his work like this, he adapts as necessary」

「Is that so?」

「Or rather, if he wins in the end, there isn't anyone to complain his way of fighting. Let it be he fights while waiting, or he fights while holding back, or while looking away, or while thinking, or while talking in middle, or while muttering or even while taking others attacks……if he completes his goal in end, a complaint by an outsider would be rude」

『If he makes a mistakes, it's his own fault』, Noel clearly says that.

To the secretary making a face saying, Then what is the problem, Noel replies with『But』and continues while making her eyes narrow.

「……It's no problem if he chose to fight like that. I too, don't have any reason to complain. However……the problem is that if he didn't choose it」

「If he didn't choose it?」

「That's right. ……It won't be good if he becomes just like mom in her younger days, a『Daydreamer』. Certainly, he is an idiot guy who is always being looked after by somewhere, someone.」

Saying that, Noel takes the card put on the crystal tablet off, and puts it into her bosom.

Soon after, the information from above the crystal tablet disappears and returns to being colorless and transparent.

Noel, walks up to her desk, and puts the card inside the drawer.

And recalled, the fight of Minato she was seeing yesterday while hiding in shadows.

In that there were too many things that attracted her.

The body which doesn't get burned even with fire, legs that can electrify, the mysterious magic to enhance someone else, etc……

However, the things that she concerned about most is, those『Eyes』.

Not having fun with fighting, violence.

Still, not isn't being disappointed.

Not having resolution, nor hesitation.

His eyes are objective to a tremendous extent.

As if the fight was, a scene on a theatre play or drawing made on the page.

His eyes are like that of a theatre play actor, who knows he would have to fight here.

Fortunately, he doesn't think he is a chosen one. But, that in turn accelerates another problem.

It had close resemblance to her mom's heroic saga…… 『Daydreamer』 she told once, thinking that Noel frowned.

(But, Minato's eyes just now were somewhat better……did he get some trigger for it? To want to face the world seriously……)

Noel, who doesn't even know what happened yesterday's night, won't be able to get a clue, but soon enough she stopped thinking.

The thing known as 『Daydreamer』 is not a easy, and a weak thing, that she would feel relief with his eyes changed a bit only.

It was precisely because her mom knew that, that she requested the 『Surveillance』 and 『Teaching』 of her youngest brother.

Different from what Minato recognises and has heard about 『Daydreamer』 , Noel knows the 『Real meaning』 of that word, the danger of that thing, and so she frowns.

「For the time being just wait-and-see. I cannot guess how he would grow from now on」

「Understood. Then, as you wish」

After bowing saying that, secretary left the room.

For becoming a help for its master who has taken a troublesome job once again.

……However, that secretary has not realized it.

The contents Noel talked about were all truth. It's true that there is a problem with his 『Stance』 , his future might change on the way he is guided from now on.

However, that is all about his way of thinking or personality, the things that occur on the 『Interior』 .

Strong persisting interacting is needed,

……but, in that case, why is the observation of 『Magical Power』 needed?

The 『Pass』 she handed, and the 『Card』 she put in drawer, are in no way related to personality, rather they are used to measure the quantity and attribute of 『Magical Power』 . No matter how much information she needed, this was way too out of line.

The reason……Only her mom who wrote the letter, and Noel who is following her mother's orders, know about.

Noel, confirmed that after seeing the information on the crystal tablet……right now, in the room she was alone and,

「Really, what does this mean, mom……?」

She heaved a sigh while remembering a certain information on the crystal tablet.